

Hafa Adai!

Aldan: No right or wrong answer on Article 12 issue. **PAGE 5**

Torres says he will exercise authority over child tax credit payments. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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\$481M ARPA funds now received

The CNMI Department of Finance received on Monday afternoon the \$481.9 million that was allocated to the CNMI from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday, who said his priority is keeping government employees at 80 hours per pay period and ensuring



Torres

the continued success of the CNMI's COVID-19 response.

The disbursement of the funding comes after the CNMI Department of Finance submitted its drawdown request last Tuesday to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, according to an Office of the Governor press statement.

The funding authorized by

See \$481M on Page 4

'MVA owed \$7.33M in HOT share as of March'

» **'Future MVA signature events are underway'**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of March 31, 2021, the



Iakopo

Marianas Visitors Authority is owed about \$7.33 million of its share in the Hotel Occupancy Tax, according to MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo.

For the second quarter of fiscal year 2021, MVA did not receive any remittance from the Department of Finance for its share of the Hotel Occupancy Tax, she added.

Iakopo discussed MVA's HOT share in the tourism body's second quarter report

See MVA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, May 17, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **51%**
Fully Vaccinated: **51%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,632
Fully Vaccinated:	18,609
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,501
Fully Vaccinated:	2,741
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	162

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,079	24	8,103
Recovered	7,851	24	7,875
Active	89	24	113
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			159,785

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	173	0	173
Traced	137	0	137
Via Travel Screening			
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			60

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.



FALUN DAFA DAY

Falun Dafa adherents celebrate World Falun Dafa Day by doing roadside waving in front of the San Jose intersection near Atkins-Kroll Toyota Saipan last Thursday. Falun Dafa, or Falun Gong, is a religious movement that was formed in the early 1990s by U.S.-based religious leader Li Hongzhi. The Chinese government cracked down on Falun Dafa in 1999 and the group has been protesting against the Chinese government since then.

JOSHUA SANTOS

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Bolis R US II located along Beach Road held its grand opening last Saturday.

PAGE 11



WORLD

Israeli warplanes unleash a new series of heavy airstrikes at several locations of Gaza City.

PAGE 13



OVERDRIVE

The 2022 Hyundai Tucson is one of the most striking compact cutes in the U.S. non-pickup segment.

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Local

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Eugene Chung, fifth from left, poses with members of the PSS Mental Health Team, TTT Rota's students and organization members, and Rota Municipal Council members at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room last Saturday. Tasi to Table and the U.S. Coast Guard signed a memorandum of agreement on April 13, marking the beginning of an educational partnership between the two.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



USCG official talks of opportunities with TTT Rota members

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Commander Eugene Chung spoke about the USCG's many career opportunities as guest speaker during the Tasi to Table Rota's second official club meeting last Saturday at the Rota Mayor's Office conference room.

the bottom and work your way up to being a senior. Same concept applies with the Coast Guard. You work your way up and while the years pass, you keep moving forward. Eventually you get promoted in your rank like you do with being in school," said Chung.

Chung, who has been with the U.S. Coast Guard for nearly 14 years now, also shared with TTT Rota's young club members some of his past experiences since joining the Coast Guard, according to Tasi to Table's May 15 newsletter.

In addition to recalling his times stationed in various parts of the world and his past days out in the open ocean searching for illegal fishermen and drug smugglers, Chung also provided insight on how upwards mobility within the Coast Guard works. "[Like in] high school, you start as a freshman. You are starting at

TTT Rota's next meeting will be on June 19, where TTT will present to the club members their own rods and reels. TTT members, TTT board chairs, Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, members of the Rota Municipal Council, and Rota's senators are all expected to be in attendance. *(Joshua Santos)*

DRT plans for advanced payments of the Expanded Child Tax Credit

Credit for 2021 only

The Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation would like to notify the public that the implementation plan for the Expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021 pursuant to the American Rescue Plan is currently being developed for a target issuance by July 2021.

From July through December 2021, up to half the credit will be advanced to eligible families. DRT anticipates that the plan will allow estimated advance payments based on the 2020 return, or if not available, the 2019 return.

For that reason, DRT urges families to file their 2020 return as soon as possible to avoid any delays. This includes many low-and moderate-income families who don't normally file returns. The deadline this year was yesterday, May 17, 2021.

DRT will launch an online portal for taxpayers to update information such as a change in the number of qualifying children, marital status, or significant change in income. Additionally, the portal will allow taxpayers to submit or update their banking information for direct deposit payments.

DRT will be issuing further guidance once the Plan is finalized and approved.

Currently, the credit is worth up to \$2,000 per eligible child. The new law increases it to as much as \$3,000 per child for dependents ages 6 through 17, and \$3,600 for dependents ages 5 and under.

The maximum credit is available to taxpayers with a modified AGI of:

■ \$75,000 or less for singles,

■ \$112,500 or less for heads of household and

■ \$150,000 or less for married couples filing a joint return and qualified widows and widowers.

Above these income thresholds, the extra amount above the original \$2,000 credit—either \$1,000 or \$1,600 per child—is reduced by \$50 for every \$1,000 in modified AGI.

Also, the credit is fully refundable for 2021. Before this year, the refundable portion was limited to \$1,400 per child. *(PR)*

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Mileage: 12,886, STOCK #: SP21P0056
Mileage: 12,291, STOCK #: SP21P0057
Mileage: 12,628, STOCK #: SP21P0058
Mileage: 14,153, STOCK #: SP21P0061
Mileage: 13,323, STOCK #: SP21P0055
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Expanded Child Tax

 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Upcoming checkpoints for May 22, June 5

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a total of four separate Occupant Protection and Child Restraint checkpoints on May 22, 2021, and June 5, 2021.

■ On May 22, 2021, the first checkpoint will be along Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 7am to 9am. The second checkpoint will be along Chaim Pale Arnold, Chalon Lau Lau to Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico from 11am to 1pm.

■ On June 5, 2021, the first checkpoint will be along Beach Road, Susupe to Tun Thomas P. Sablan Road from 6pm to 8pm. The second checkpoint will be along Chalon Pale Arnold Road, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Gualo Rai, from 9pm to 11pm.

The purpose of these scheduled checkpoints is to promote public safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not utilizing a vehicle's occupant protection system as well as child restraint systems while driving on the island's roadways. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents, occupant protection, and child restraint system violations in these areas. (PR)

US Passport Office rep on Tinian

A representative from the CNMI U.S. Passport Office will be on Tinian on Friday, May 21, 2021. They will be departing Saipan at 8am and will begin accepting applications and inquiries at the Finance Office as soon as they arrive on Tinian until 4pm. (PR)

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisiñ i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first May monthly virtual meeting on May 20, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3:30pm via Zoom. Call Kumisiñ secretary Roland Blas for more information, special accommodations and agenda at 480-4047. (PR)

(rolandblas1973@gmail.com). (PR)

Guam PTAC sets webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ May 20 – PIEE/WAWF – Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. We will show you how to setup an account and submit an invoice so you get paid on time.

■ May 27 – Cybersecurity – The Department of Defense is requiring cybersecurity certification for vendors. We will discuss the best way to comply with DOD's requirement. The upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Guam tax refunds out this week

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation in Guam has processed and the Department of Administration will mail checks for or pay by direct deposit 2,968 tax year 2020 and prior income tax refunds this week.

Total income tax refunds paid is approximately \$8,778,572, including refunds garnished to repay government debts. These represent payment of 2,968 error-free returns filed on or before Feb. 23, 2021.

To check the status of your income tax refund log into your individual account at <https://www.myguamtax.com/> and use the 'Lookup Status of 1040 Refund' tool.

DRT can be reached at 635-1840/1841 or 635-7651. Due to high call volumes, DRT recommends that customers use the "Lookup Status" tool or contact us via the "Contact U" section of our website or to e-mail us at incometax@revtax.guam.gov. (PR)


WINNING ARTWORK

Chosen by a panel of artist-judges, the artwork of Agape Christian School sophomore Yurong Ruth Zhang is the winner of the 13th annual Northern Marianas Congressional Art Competition, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a Facebook post. He said that Zhang's artwork, called "Dancing with Moon and Waves," will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year, alongside the artwork from congressional districts across the nation.

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IN WINZY CORP. LAWSUIT

IPI's motion to vacate entry of default is denied

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI last Friday denied Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC's motion to vacate entry of default in Winzy

Corp.'s lawsuit against the Saipan casino for unpaid services.

According to a civil minutes document filed last May 14, Winzy and IPI entered into a contract on Feb. 18, 2020, where Winzy was to provide supervision and consultation to a fire

protection system project for IPI's "Resort Hotel" project, which had an end date of Sept. 15, 2020. Winzy agreed to conduct testing, consult on the installation, do the final completion commissioning, and help IPI in acquiring fire-safety certifications for

the resort hotel.

However, after months of nonpayment, Winzy decided to quit work on the project around mid-August 2020, a time where its work on the project was approximately 95% completed. Winzy then sued IPI on Oct. 30, 2020, for \$162,925 in unpaid, contracted services, an amount that roughly equates to 95% of the total payment IPI was to make to Winzy

upon project completion.

The court ordered IPI to provide evidence of a meritorious defense to Winzy's complaints by a May 3, 2021, deadline. IPI failed to meet this deadline, resulting in the court ordering an entry of default against IPI.

The default judgment hearing for this case is scheduled for May 18 at 1:30pm in the district court.

Veterans Affairs needs accredited service officers, access to management systems

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley Iakopo met with Honolulu Regional Office of Veterans Affairs director Sergio Chao to discuss the need for the CNMI to have accredited veterans service officers and access to the Veterans Benefits Management System, which is a claims management software used by most Veterans Affairs offices to monitor veterans' submitted compensation claims.

According to Iakopo, he currently works with three unaccredited representatives, one of them a previously accredited VSO. Iakopo explained that right now, the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs is only authorized to help veterans fill out and submit veterans benefits and compensation forms. The next steps of the process, as well as real-time updates on the fil-

ing of these forms, is handled by the Office of Veterans Affairs in Guam.

In his meeting with Chao last May 3 in Honolulu, Hawaii, Iakopo discussed the possibilities of training

and certifying his representatives, as well as authorizing the CNMI office to have access to the Veterans Benefits Management System and to train the representatives on how to navi-

gate the software.

In order to be an accredited veterans service officers, individuals must pass an exam, submit to a background check, and continuously take education courses to receive and maintain accreditation. Upon earning VSO accreditation, the representative receives electronic devices from the Office of Veterans Affairs with access to the VBMS.

Iakopo's May 3 meeting with Chao was their first face-to-face meeting since the start of the pandemic. Be-



CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley Iakopo poses for a photo with director Sergio Chao of the Honolulu Regional Office of Veterans Affairs after their May 3 meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA

From Page 1

for fiscal year 2021 dated May 10, 2021. She submitted the report to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan).

Iakopo said the FY 2021 Budget Act appropriates \$2.1 million for the MVA—an 84% reduction from the original FY 2020 Budget Act. This

year's budget provides \$526,181 for personnel and the remaining \$1,671,230 for all others.

She noted that MVA continues to implement drastic cuts on various programs and services outlined in a Feb. 4, 2021, but MVA has been able to reopen its Japan office with limited activity on Feb. 1, 2021.

In cooperation with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, MVA has relaunched one of its signature

events—the 17th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, which took place on Feb. 13-14, 2021, Iakopo said.

She said the event highlighted the success of the Marianas in preventing the spread of COVID-19 through strong policies and community cooperation.

"Future signature events are underway, as the importance of promoting the CNMI through signature events are one of many marketing strategies that attract visitors," Iakopo said.

soon as possible. King-Hinds said, however, that she has seen too many projects where something presented as temporary becomes "temporary permanent."

"Unless there's a compelling reason to allow for such a move, I don't think that CPA can support that request," King-Hinds said.

Aldan said Saturday that the last time they met with BIG representatives, they were targeting this September to open their casino.

"I believe the equipment are there. I'm not [going to] quote how many equipment, but there are a couple of containers that came in and they were already on site," he said.

Aldan said this is why his office is pressuring the permitting agencies to already go inside the building and start plugging up the electrical that are needed for the computers. "They're one of the latest computers; e-gaming is what they brought in. These are for electronic gaming," he said.

The mayor said BIG's casino is almost as big as that of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

As to the market of the casino, Aldan said BIG is targeting a regional

approach, such as gamblers from Guam, Saipan, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

"China is out of the picture. Michael Kwan is out of the picture," he said, referring to the former chairman of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., the company that previously owned the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Aldan said they are not asking for 1,000 gamblers, but only the capacity to accommodate 200 to 300.

He said the casino will provide work for the people of Tinian and generate revenue.

Aldan said he believes the dispute between CPA and BIG has already been resolved.

In July 2020, CPA directed BIG to immediately stop the allegedly unauthorized construction of a casino, a restaurant, and VIP rooms at a building on Tinian that CPA had authorized only for a ferry terminal.

BIG is building the Tinian Ocean View Resort & Casino. In March 2019, BIG and Wyndham Hotel Group held a hotel management signing ceremony for the Wyndham Hotel brand to create a Tinian luxury hotel.

\$481M

From Page 1

ARPA—\$481,876,521—was formally requested by the Torres-Palacios administration and provides emergency funding for the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, replenishes lost government revenue due to the pandemic, and brings back jobs within the CNMI government that were lost during the pandemic.

In addition, funding has also been provided for capital projects, infrastructure improvement, additional rental assistance, and small business credit expansion.

Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios will be meeting with the Legislature's leadership to discuss the further implementation of their spending plan. Speaking at a radio news briefing last Friday, Torres said he will be reaching out to Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) this week.

"Lt. Gov. Palacios and I thank our federal partners for working diligently with us in approving our implementation plan for this much needed funding for our people. We also thank [Finance Secretary] David Atalig and his team for their work throughout this process. Among our priorities for our spending plan include keeping our government employees at 80 hours per pay period and ensuring our COVID-19 response remains successful. We will continue to work with our Legislature leadership as we implement this plan to help our community in need," said Torres.

Last Friday, Torres said they were still finalizing some numbers and data pertaining to the ARPA funding allocated to the CNMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) recently announced that the U.S. Treasury has allocated \$481,876,521 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the CNMI and has opened the application portal.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the CNMI will get an estimated

total of \$507 million in ARPA funding—not \$515 million as was previously estimated.

Atalig explained that ARPA has different sections of funding and that the \$481.9 million that came in on Monday is the amount from Section 602 of the funds for the CNMI.

"Municipalities get about \$11 million and we don't know exactly yet how much for infrastructure. We anticipate about \$12 million," he said.

At the same press briefing Friday, Torres also stated that one of their priorities at this point is to make sure that they emphasize the importance of "herd immunity" and that they continue to push for "herd immunity" and vaccination.

"As you can see, this issue of COVID, we are definitely not out of the woods. We're seeing it out," Torres said.

He said they don't like to use other places as an example, but that at times they need to, to be mindful that it's still around. He pointed at what's happening in India, where they have a staggering number of COVID-19 cases—not just positive cases but also fatalities.

Torres said they also continue to see a number of cases increases in the United States.

"On behalf of the lieutenant governor, our family, please encourage our family members, our loved ones, relatives, friends, co-workers to make sure they get a vaccine shot as soon as possible," he said.

Meanwhile, Torres commended the Governor's Economic Council of Advisors for the "hard work they have done to the community." He also praised the House's minority bloc for working hard with their community outreach program. The governor said the minority bloc just finished cleaning and repainting the Filcom pavilion at the Civic Center in Susupe last Thursday. A couple of weeks ago, the minority bloc also finished repainting and beautifying the Carolinian Utt.

"So I just wanted to give a shout-out to them, and thank them for all their hard work in the community," Torres said. *(With Ferdie de la Torre)*

Aldan: No right or wrong answer on Article 12 issue

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan believes that simply placing the Article 12 issue on the ballot will essentially provide the opportunity to those without exclusive landownership rights to strip it away from those with those rights.

Speaking during a public hearing on Senate Legislative Initiative 22-01 last Thursday on Tinian by the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, Aldan said he believes it is his duty as mayor to remind the senators of their true role and that is to represent people's interests.

Senate Legislative 22-01, introduced by Senate President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian), proposes to amend Article 12 to remove the land alienation restriction in the Commonwealth.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution limits landownership in the CNMI to persons of Northern Marianas descent, or NMD.

Water service interruption due to low water tank level

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there is currently an ongoing emergency water service interruption due to the low water tank level at the Capitol Hill water tank.

This interruption will cause the areas of Capital Hill, Mt. Tapochau, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, Papago, I-Denni, Sadog Tasi, Navy Hill, Chalan Galaide, Garapan, China Town, and As Falape to have low pressure to no water, especially during peak hour.

The cause of the low tank levels is from the dry season we are currently experiencing, causing the water production from the Agag well field to decrease. To mediate the low water to no pressure problem to the affected areas, CUC will be extending water service from the As Terlaje tank on Beach Road and Middle Road (from the Quartermaster Road to Micro Beach Road) every other day, which began on May 15, 2021, and will continue until further notice.

CUC urges the public to practice water conservation methods during this dry season period.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Hofsneider said the legislative initiative will allow Northern Marianas descent landowners to fully exercise their real property rights, and will reduce the NMD percentage of ownership interest in an NMD corporation.

This initiative is expected to be discussed during the today's Senate session.

In his testimony before the Senate committee, Aldan urged the senators to aggressively reach out to people and engage in constant debate on this Article 12 issue, whether in person or through social media, so at the end of the public hearing process they may confidently act on what they believe is in the people's best interest.

"And in this case as a unique right is granted to a specific subsection of our citizens, you might want to venture further to poll only those of CNMI descent and ask them if they are willing to give up this unique right to exclusive landownership," Aldan said.

This way, he said, the senators will have a better understanding of the positions of the entire voting public and those that this law will directly affect.

The mayor urged senators to expand due diligence during public hearings—to not only ask if people favor a change in Article 12, but also ask if they agree with the senators' approach to put the question on the ballot through a legislative initiative.

Aldan said if a majority of people believe that this issue is too important and life-changing for only 29 legislative members to decide, then he asks the Senate to respect the position of the people and let a popular initiative be the force and instrument to place it on the ballot.

"With any issue of this magnitude, timing is always a critical and often determinant factor. If our people do not think that today is the right time to change Article 12, please re-



Aldan

spect that," he said.

Addressing the people of Tinian and the CNMI, Aldan said the lawmakers can only make a well-informed decision based on the people's active participation.

He said if people feel strongly about this issue, regardless of which side, voice that opinion strongly and make their position known.

"For with this issue, once the decision is made, there is no turning back. Don't be the person who comments after the fact when changes are already in place. Be the person to take a stand today for what you believe," the mayor said.

To put it simply, there is no right or wrong answer to this issue, he said. In fact, Aldan said, when listening closely to the endless debates, all of the presented points make sense. He said proponents for changing Article 12 argue economic opportunity and freedom of

choice regarding personal assets. Opponents argue inevitable landlessness and the need to preserve the CNMI's culture.

He said he is placed in a difficult position as he is asked to testify not because he is an indigenous Chamorro landowner or because he is a private citizen of the CNMI, but because he is mayor and his voice carries influence.

As a citizen, Aldan said, he has personal beliefs that he will exercise if this matter ever makes it to the ballot. However, he said, as the mayor of Tinian, he has to understand that because his opinion carries weight and influence, he should be cautious about imposing his personal belief on others as they all view this issue in different ways, depending on one's personal beliefs, financial need, and economic standing.

"Although, we believe the question at hand is whether Article 12 needs to be changed or abolished, actually, the bigger question is who holds the

responsibility for making that decision, the Legislature or the people?" Aldan asked.

He said the Legislature has been lobbied by proponents for decades now to pass a legislative initiative to put the question on the ballot as it is an easier and faster process. However, Aldan said, opponents argue that since non-indigenous voters will be able to vote on the issue, by simply placing it on the ballot through a legislative initiative is unfair and there is a high probability that a change in Article 12 will pass.

"But more importantly and vital to the beliefs of the indigenous landowners is the fact that the CNMI Constitution granted those of CNMI descent a very unique right and interest in the exclusive ownership of land that is not found anywhere else in the entire nation," he said.

At a public hearing on Saipan last month, the Senate legislative initiative drew opposition from many.

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NEW JUDICIARY SEAL

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, ninth from left, is joined by judges and justices from the CNMI Superior Court, CNMI Supreme Court, U.S. District Court for the NMI, first lady Dianne Torres, and other guests during the unveiling of the Northern Marianas Judiciary Seal last Friday.

JOSHUA SANTOS

NMC graduate receives doctorate in nursing

Northern Marianas College nursing alumna Joy Lacorte recently received her Doctorate in Nurse Anesthesia Practice, or DNAP, from AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida in April this year.

"While I was sitting in the auditorium waiting to receive my degree, I felt a wide range of emotions," Lacorte said. "I felt sad because our cohort had become such a tight-knit family, and that would be the last time I would see many of them. [Everyone in our cohort] had



Lacorte

been dreaming of this day for a very long time, and we finally made it. There was an overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy."

For Lacorte, the program was one of the challenging things she's ever done. "We had to make sacrifices that we didn't want to make if we wanted to succeed," Lacorte said. "There were

many moments where I would take naps in my car because I was so tired."

At one point, Lacorte had to miss her younger brother's

high school graduation because of clinicals.

However, she still loved her program. "I can undeniably say that all the stress and tears were worth it," Lacorte said

Lacorte received her Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from NMC in 2012, and her Associate of Science in Nursing in 2014. She graduated magna cum laude, and was president of NMC's Nursing Club at the time. Her mother, another nurse, graduated from NMC's Nursing Program in 2008.

After graduating from NMC and passing her National Council Licensure

Examination for Registered Nurses, Lacorte transferred to Southern Adventist University in Tennessee to work toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.

Upon receiving her bachelors, Lacorte was immediately accepted into the three-year

DNAP program at AdventHealth University.

"We are very proud of Joy for this amazing accomplishment and cannot wait to see her make an impact in nursing and the medical field, whether here at home or abroad," NMC Nursing De-

partment chair Rosa T. Aldan said. "The Nursing Program congratulates Joy for reaching this milestone and wishes her many successes in her future nursing career!"

For more information about NMC's Nursing Program, visit www.marianas.edu. (NMC)

Bayani Association honors mothers



Members of the Bayani Association pose for a picture at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In honor of Mother's Day, which was celebrated on May 9 this year, the Bayani Association handed out an estimated 440 sets composed of two boxes of chocolates after five Masses at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

The group gave away boxes of chocolates at the Kristo Rai Church after the 8am, 9:30am, and 5pm Masses, the 6pm Saturday anticipated Mass, and 6am Mass.

This was the first time the group did this Mother's Day

giveaway, and also the first time for the Kristo Rai Parish to participate in this activity.

Bayani Association secretary Marie Caamic Meister said this was the idea of association president Annamae Adaza, who thought of doing something for mothers on May 9, 2021, particularly since the group's latest fundraising was such a success.

"We are so blessed and thankful to our members who always give their support when it comes to the activities,

projects, and fundrasings of the organization," Adaza said.

Before the blessings of mothers, Fr. Albert Pellazar, OAR allowed the association to play a short video about being a mother. "You could see a lot of teary eyes after watching the video," Adaza added.

The organization is grateful to the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for providing their new shirts, and for the donors during their Mother's Day fundraising: Marissa Hardt, Socorro Huliganga, C&R Corp., Bhiya Canadalla, and the president of Northern Marianas Bartenders Association, Lito Espino, for their generosity.

The Bayani Association is a non-profit organization and is one of the unit organizations under the umbrella of the United Filipino Organization. If you wish to join the organization, and if you have a passion for doing volunteer work and to serve the community, call Adaza at 285-4388, Meister at 785-0349, or treasurer Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545. (PR)

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: ITB21-OPA-096 SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 08, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.	
"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) DELL SERVERS FOR THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AUDITOR"	
<small>COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.</small>	
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<small>THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.</small>	
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<small>/S/ KINA B. PETER PUBLIC AUDITOR</small>	<small>/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON ACTING DIRECTOR, PS</small>

Torres says he will exercise authority over child tax credit payments

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday he will exercise his authority over child tax credit payments in order for qualifying families to receive monthly payments starting this summer and until the end of the year.

In response to question about child tax credit payments, Torres disclosed at a radio news briefing that they are just waiting for clear guidance from the U.S. Department of Treasury. Once the CNMI Department of Finance obtains clear guidance when to start, then they will release

them as monthly payments.

"Our goal...is to make sure that we follow through the guidelines," he said.

Delegate Gre-

» Governor says they are awaiting US Treasury's guidance

Delegate Gre-

gorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) recently stated that if Torres exercises

his authority over child tax credit payments, qualifying families can receive \$300 a month per child for children ages 0-5 and \$250 a month

per child for children ages 6-17

til the end of the year.

Sablan said the American Rescue Plan Act included at his request the authority for Torres to issue advance monthly child tax credits payments and \$300,000 to cover administrative costs.

At Friday's news briefing, Torres said the law that autho-

rizes this was passed back in March, like ARPA. "I believe we're waiting for it to clear. You don't just pass it and then immediately it's available. So we continue to look at guidelines," he said.

The governor said their ultimate goal is to disseminate the federal funds that they have.

JC Cafe is latest NMC ProaPerks Partner

JC Cafe on Tinian is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive 10% off on food and drinks when dining at JC Cafe.

JC Cafe on Tinian joins the growing list of ProaPerks

partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Coral Garden Hotel, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle

and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginin

JC Cafe on Tinian is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion to ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, JC Cafe, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky

Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kevin's Cafe, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner Cafe, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)



18th BIRTHDAY

Terilynn Jose Paragados, a senior high school student in Guam, celebrated her 18th birthday party at the Mango Suites in As Lito, Saipan last May 8. Paragados was born on Saipan, where she completed her elementary and middle school studies. Also in the photo are Paragados' family and grandparents.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg. 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to PL. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, **May 19, 2021 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (04/07/2021)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
 - Three complaint letters from Mr. Hofsneider
- VII. Director's Report
 - Update on the three proposed regulations
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - A. New Application
 - Peter Geissler – Radiologic Technician
 - Yoji Hong – Medical Laboratory Technology (Foreign Applicant)
 - Yunchul Son – Medical Laboratory Technology (Foreign Applicant)
 - B. Renewal Applications
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

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323-7446/664-3761 **hsehs@cnmipss.org**

*Early Head Start is currently only offered on Saipan.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Time to trash your face mask? Not so fast

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday announced that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 may participate in activities indoors without wearing face masks or observing social distancing, even those in crowded settings. It had previously said vaccinated people could lose the mask when outdoors, which is pretty safe even for unvaccinated people.

"We have all longed for this moment, when we can get back to some sense of normalcy," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said during a media briefing Thursday.

But don't toss out your face mask and rush out on the town just yet. While this is good news from the standpoint that the updated guidelines reflect how well the U.S. is vaccinating its residents and slowing down new infections, it's problematic because it's not quite as simple as Walensky suggests.

For one thing, the CDC's guidance is filled with exceptions. It doesn't extend to buses, trains or planes. Or hospitals and nursing homes. Or prisons, or homeless shelters, or businesses that require face coverings, or ... well, you get the idea. So much for getting back to normal.

Moreover, this guidance does not supersede state and local orders. California and Los Angeles still have mask mandates for the time being. Gov. Gavin Newsom said Wednesday that he may loosen the restrictions for mask wearing by June 15, when the state is set to lift all pandemic restrictions on businesses, but that some rules for indoors are likely to remain.

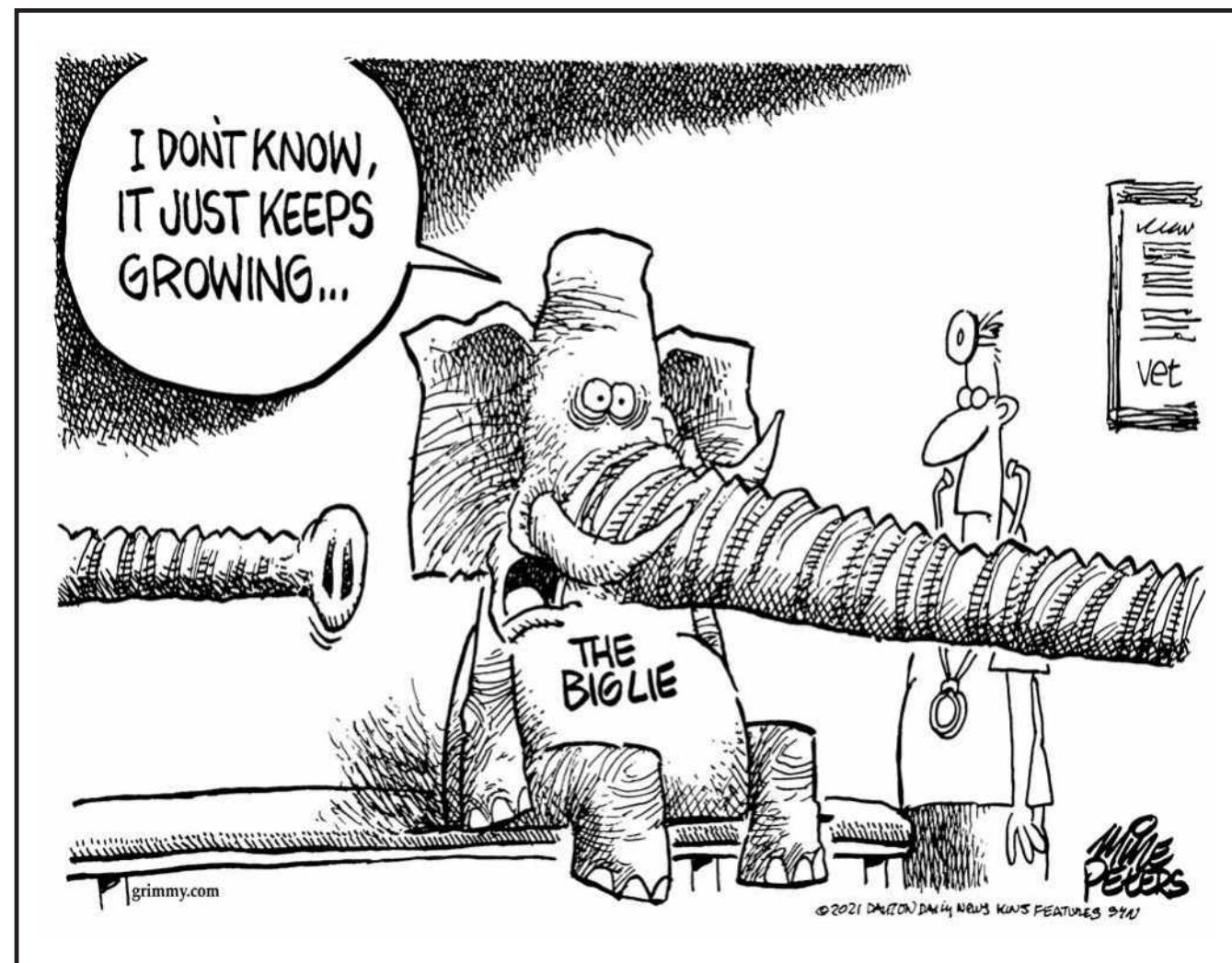
But the bigger complication is this: How do you know whether people have been fully vaccinated? It's not as if you can tell from looking at them. We might have had cool apps to tell us, but efforts to create vaccination certification programs got so bogged down in nasty partisan politics that some states have gone so far as to ban them.

What you can be sure of is that the odds are good that most of the strangers passing through a public place, masked or not, are not fully vaccinated. Only about one-third of the population has been, which means they received their final shots more than two weeks ago.

CDC officials no doubt intended to lift the spirits of pandemic-weary Americans as well as give vaccination foot-draggers incentive to get their shots (oddly, the threat of a painful prolonged death isn't quite enough for some). But this well-intentioned announcement is likely to confuse people and lead to more resistance to mask wearing among unvaccinated people, as well as put pressure on state and local health officials to drop mask mandates earlier than is wise.

Science and data back up the CDC's overall point that vaccinated people are in little danger if they hang out with unmasked and unvaccinated people indoors. Nevertheless, there's still a risk of sparking new infections when you gather unvaccinated and unmasked people in a room and let them mix.

© 2021 Los Angeles Times



We have met the enemy

Historically, the most horrific attacks on America have come from half a world away.

America's enemies bombed U.S. navy ships at Pearl Harbor, collapsed the World Trade Center's twin towers, smashed a hole in the Pentagon, and would have shattered the Capitol Dome except for the midair heroics of a handful of America's best.

Now our enemies have hit us where the rest of us live. And yet we aren't even sure who our real enemies are.

Our news screens are bombarding us with an onslaught of lies that are intended to shatter Americans' faith in our seemingly once-indestructible constitutional democracy. That's just what Russia's Vladimir Putin wanted when, as U.S. intelligence warned us, he ordered cyber-sabotage of U.S. elections in an attempt to elect and reelect Donald Trump. Now Putin is thrilled that Trump is saying what could be Kremlin talking points—his false claim that he was reelected in a landslide that was stolen. And tremulous Republicans now parrot his lies.

But Putin isn't our democracy's real problem—and frankly, neither is Trump. Our problem can be found a lot closer to home.

Today we must patriotically set out to find our democracy's real enemy and fix our real problem. We must start the way Alice started her curious adventure—by stepping Through the News-Screen and following the Great News Funnel to where it spills out—right into your own living room!

Now we can hear the voice-of-the-people Trump and all Republican allies are hearing and heeding. If the voice isn't your neighbor next door, across the street or across the backyard fence—well, I guess it's you who are pleading to the politicos: "Please lie to me!"

It's the voice of people who are stressed out and fed up. They just want to hear things that feel good (true, false, whatever!). If that's you we are hearing, well, you are America's problem.

So come with me back Through the News-Screen so we can watch our pols at last Wednesday's House Oversight Committee hearing. Four Republican committee members took pains to make us feel good by assuring us that we really didn't see what we indeed saw, back in the Jan. 6 mob insurrection at the Capitol. We remember seeing violent men clubbing police with a flagpole bearing the U.S. flag. We remember a mob breaking glass to enter the top-security Capitol, where people died that day. We saw video of a policeman being beaten while others shouted to shoot him with his own gun. And others chanted to hang Vice President Mike Pence because he was willing to do his job and fulfill his constitutional duty by reading aloud the certified 2020 vote totals.

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



That's what we saw. Now here is Rep. Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., who won hugely in his district that voted for Trump, telling us his feel-good version of what we all saw:

"There was no insurrection. And to call it an insurrection, in my opinion, is a bold-faced lie. Watching the TV footage of those who entered the Capitol and walked through Statuary Hall, showed people in an orderly fashion staying between the stanchions and ropes taking videos and pictures. You know, if you didn't know the TV footage was a video from January 6th, you'd actually think it was a normal tourist visit."

One of Clyde's Republican House colleagues, who also won hugely in a district that voted for Trump, puts into perspective the problem Republican voters now confront. Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, who says he can no longer support Trump—puts his party's dilemma into its sadly proper perspective:

"If you're a base Republican voter and every one of the people you trust is saying January 6th didn't happen and the election was stolen, we can't really blame them for believing that. ... When all their leaders are lying to them, of course they're going to believe it."

There's no stereotyping today's "Please lie to me!" Republican voters. They are in our cities, our farmlands and all over our suburbs. They are rich, poor or comfortably middle class. You know them when you see them—maybe in the bathroom mirror every morning.

Saving America's Democracy is a one-act, one-actor show that we all must star in. The dialogue comes down to the one essential for demonstrating patriotism and saving democracy: Do you have the guts to throw a liar out of office?

If you are a patriotic American voter, there is only one answer: Yes. If not, then you are among those who satirist Walt Kelly famously spoke of long ago in his legendary "Pogo" comic strip about a possum's life in the Okefenokee Swamp, when he wrote:

"We have met the enemy and he is us."

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The CDC's new mask rules leave kids out. Here's how to fix that

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control made waves when it announced that vaccinated people can doff their masks. But one group of people has no hope of doing so: kids, for whom vaccines are still largely not authorized by the Food and Drug Administration. Only the Pfizer shot is authorized for kids as young as 12. So while adults may celebrate going back to their normal lives, we're still asking kids to observe all the rules of pandemic life.

They've been taken out of school or made to take extraordinary precautions there, isolated from their friends, deprived of many sports and other activities, and made to endure mask-wearing and social distancing, even outside. Add to that the hardships their families have faced from the economic disruption caused by the pandemic.

And they've done it all to protect older people. The death rate from COVID-19 is 3,200 times higher in seniors than in children. For kids, the disease is comparable to influenza.

Because adults are all now eligible for the vaccines — and have been for at least a month in most places — it's time stop asking kids to make sacrifices to protect older people.

This starts with letting kids unmask too, at least outside. There's long been evidence that outdoor transmission is extremely unlikely. And the vaccines are so effective at preventing hospitalization and death that kids are astronomically unlikely to infect someone's vaccinated grandma while they're playing on a beach or riding bikes or at summer camp. And as some doctors are starting to acknowledge, keeping kids away from their friends, masked, or indoors, is taking a toll on their physical and emotional health.

Nor should schools force kids to get vaccinated as a way to build up immunity for adults' benefit. Better now to have the large number of unvaccinated adults get their shot to protect the kids.

The only reason kids should be vaccinated is to improve their health. It's possible the COVID vaccines will do that if they

prove to be extremely safe and effective. The clinical trials for kids can't yield much data on whether the vaccines prevent severe disease or death because such cases are so uncommon to begin with. Even COVID's much-feared multisystem inflammatory syndrome has turned out to be quite rare.

While some epidemiologists have pointed out that we vaccinate kids for influenza, with a similar death toll, the important distinction is that flu shots are optional. We don't hold kids' lives hostage if they don't get them.

Continuing restrictions for unvaccinated kids could cause their misery to drag on for months, since surveys show that a high percentage of parents are worried about vaccine safety and plan to delay vaccinating their kids for COVID-19.

The better way to protect kids is for adults to step up and get the vaccine. That's right — after 15 months of asking kids to sacrifice to save older lives, it's time for older Americans to do their part for the kids.

This approach has been proven to work in Israel, where more than 60% of adults were vaccinated during a massive wave of disease. Soon, cases dropped by 99% across all age groups. Though kids under 16 weren't vaccinated, there's so little virus in circulation that they are now very unlikely to get infected — and they are already unlikely to become severely ill if they do.

That data suggests that if we get as many adults vaccinated here in the U.S., children are unlikely to provide a "reservoir" of the virus that could prolong the pandemic. That was more of a worry when scientists thought vaccines might only prevent symptomatic illness — now we know they drastically reduce the odds of transmission too.

There's still some reason for concern surrounding the small number of adults with immune-compromising conditions who aren't responding to the vaccine — something doctors can test for by measuring antibodies. The vaccines do work in many immunocompromised people, but where they don't, it might be

By FAYE FLAM

Bloomberg Opinion

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She has written for the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology. For more articles like this, please visit us at bloomberg.com/opinion



reasonable to vaccinate kids who are in contact with them.

Some people have argued that the situation does not meet standards for the FDA to grant an emergency use authorization because, for kids, the disease itself is not an emergency. That's a somewhat different, thornier question from whether the vaccines should be required for school, or even for being allowed to play unmasked, as is now the case for adults. And it's important to keep in mind that high vaccination rates in adults will reduce everyone's risk by driving down the amount of virus in circulation.

A trio of doctors writing in The Atlantic recently suggested delaying childhood COVID vaccines and sending those doses to India. That's another good reason to make childhood vaccination optional — freeing up doses in the U.S. would very likely save the most lives.

The only restrictions on kids should be ones that protect kids — and there should be at least some minimal amount of evidence that such restrictions would help. Children have already been put through far too much in the name of protecting adults. Let's turn things around now, and ask adults who've yet to be vaccinated to step up, and help lower case counts even more to protect the kids.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to NMTI board

To Mario F. Valentino, chairman, NMTI board of trustees:

Mr. Chair, this letter is regarding the May 13, 2021, article in the *Marianas Variety* and in the *Saipan Tribune*, which deals with your concern about the finances of the former Northern Marianas Trades Institute/current Northern Marianas Technical Institute. At that meeting you asked, "Where's the money and why did NMTI have only \$ 13,000 in its bank account" when \$750,000 had been appropriated and transferred to NMTI during FY 2020.

The short answer to your inquiry is: that information is located in the interim CEO's laptop, which was delivered to the interim CEO by trustee Kautz on April 6, 2021. That laptop was transferred from R&R accounting services upon your request. If the NMTI interim CEO is updating NMTI's ongoing expenses/disbursements and monitoring the amount in the bank from April 6 on, (the day I was no longer of service to NMTI), you will find where the money went.

I trust that you and the other trustees reviewed the Committee Report on Transition, section "Audit & Finance Transition Subcommittee Report," which the NMTI board of directors had reviewed, updated and submitted to all members of the board of trustees. That report shows that, of the \$750,000, \$586,118 was to be used for the salary and benefits of the instructors, bus drivers, and student services personnel; and that \$163,882 was to be used to pay for instructional and administrative costs.

I take this opportunity to respond to your concern and assure you that misuse of the \$750,000 of CW funds was never ever considered on my part. In fact, I gave eight months, five days a week, and most of the time more than eight hours a day of free services to NMTI when the employees of NMTI were furloughed, so that the institution would not be shut down. At all times I was fully aware and gravely concerned that our EDA partner would consider the total shutdown of NMTI negatively

toward awarding NMTI the \$10 million for its new facility.

Chairman Valentino, if you have any questions or lack information regarding this or other related topics, please invite me for explanations or answers instead of addressing such concern via the local media.

Agnes M. McPhetres

Former NMTI CEO

2nd notice to cease and ban archaeological work in CNMI

Jose P. Deleon Guerrero

Secretary, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz

Director, Historic Preservation Office

This is to inform you that we had previously requested both your offices, DCCA and HPO, to cease archaeological work and stop any permit issuance to Dr. Michael Dega, Scientific Consultant Services, Inc., David Perzinski, and his associates.

As you are aware, SCS Dr. Dega, David Perzinski, and his associates were paid \$3.2 million as the contracted archaeologist for the Best Sunshine International *Grand Mariana Casino* and Imperial Pacific International *Imperial Pacific Resort* in 2015.

Both DCCA and HPO were aware of the 2015 desecration that occurred at the 1100 A.D. ancient Chamorro village of Anaguan, the construction site of the Grand Mariana Casino and Imperial Pacific Resort where over 400 ancient Chamorro human remains and artifacts were disinterred, removed, and displaced from their

natural grave site.

This request to cease all archaeological work done and to stop the issuance of HPO permit to Dr. Dega, SCS and his associates stemmed from the serious issues and concerns raised in the two independent reviews, 2016 and 2017, conducted by Dr. James Bayman, University of Hawaii Department of Anthropology and Archaeology on the report of Dr. Dega's and SCS's three months archaeological work performed from March 2015 to June 2015 at Anaguan village (the modern-day Garapan business district).

To this date, DCCA and HPO have yet to respond to our inquiry on the status of Dr. Dega's and SCS's *Final Archaeological Data Recovery Report* for Anaguan that has been in "status quo" in both of your offices since 2015, and since your predecessors, Robert H. Hunter and Mertie Towai-Kani, respectively.

We have yet to be informed on the status of the mitigation on the violations, fines, and sanctions by the government against both the contracted archaeologist and the contractor — investor and developer.

We have been informed and understand that the DCCA and HPO in collaboration with other regulatory agencies continue to issue HPO archaeological permit to Dr. Dega, SCS, and his associates to dig and disturb our sacred and invaluable archaeological sites on Saipan and Tinian when there are series of grave concerns from the 2015 archaeological digging that have yet to be addressed and mitigated by the CNMI regulatory agencies, the investor and developer, Imperial Pacific International, LLC., and Dr. Dega, SCS.

We, therefore, submit our second request that the CNMI government Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and its Division of Historic Preservation to cease all archaeological work, and stop archaeological permit issuance to Dr. Dega, Perzinski, SCS, and associates.

In the meantime, we are requesting a list of all permits issued to Dr. Dega, Perzinski, SCS, including all associates and affiliates of Dr. Dega's archaeological work here in the CNMI. This request is hereby submitted under the CNMI's Open Government Act and the Federal Freedom of Information Act.

Liana M.S. Hofsneider

President

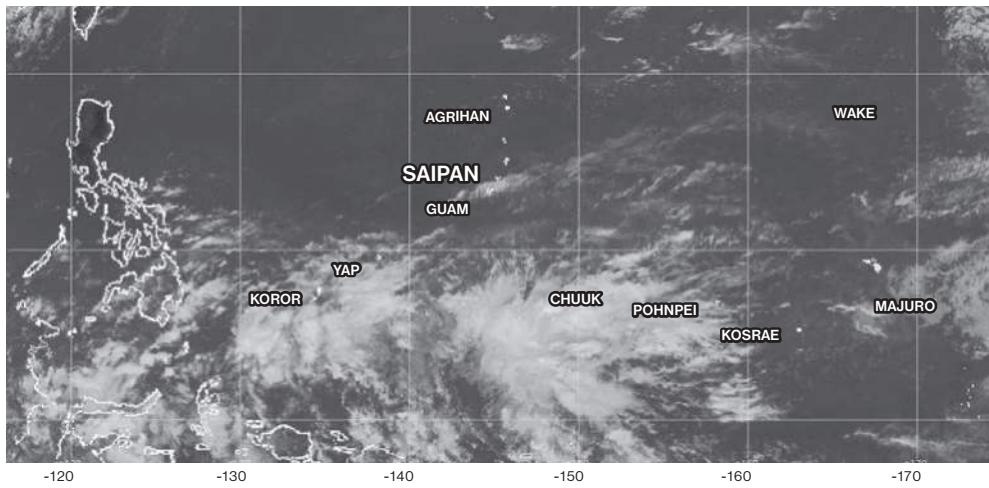
Matua Council for Chamorro Advancement

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms for Guam and Rota. Partly cloudy with isolated showers for Tinian and Saipan. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms for Guam and Rota. Partly cloudy with isolated showers for Tinian and Saipan. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°
86°	76°	86°	76°	86°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:13 AM, MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trade winds continue through this week. Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies with isolated showers. Buoy and altimetry data indicate combined seas 4 to 7 ft across the region with highest seas to the east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	88 80 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	87 78 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	87 72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85 81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	85 80 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:46 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:03 AM	11:41 AM
Thursday	-	12:48 AM	12:36 PM
Friday	-	1:31 AM	1:31 PM
Saturday	-	2:13 AM	2:27 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Partly cloudy	62 52 °F
Beijing	Rain	78 66 °F
Hong Kong	Rain	79 74 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	83 72 °F
London	Showers	62 56 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	69 55 °F
Manila	Thunderstorms	92 78 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	61 45 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87 75 °F
New York	Sunny	65 52 °F
Osaka	Partly cloudy	75 63 °F
Paris	Mostly cloudy	70 53 °F
Pusan	Sunny	77 53 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	80 59 °F
Salem	Partly cloudy	55 43 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	61 50 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	74 51 °F
Tokyo	Overcast	71 62 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	72 54 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
1:13 AM	High Tide	1.87
6:43 AM	Low Tide	1.44
10:33 AM	High Tide	1.66
6:19 PM	Low Tide	0.09

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN	
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 4, 5, 6			UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
UA117/183 6:30am 8:50pm 5 via Guam			UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam	
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-GUAM	
UA183 7:05pm 8:50pm 5			UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5	
UA183 7:15pm 9:10pm 1, 3,			UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3,	

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				
SAIPAN TO ROTA				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	
1302</td				

Business



BEA CABRERA
Bolis R Us 2 is open from Monday to Saturday, 7am to 6pm.

Bolis R US II located along Beach Road held its grand opening last Saturday and it was attended by family and friends of owner Tracy Pangelinan. It was a simple celebration but big in tradition and good food.

"We had our soft opening in December last year and five months later, we are very excited to celebrate our grand opening as this is a very special event for me and my family. I hope the community will try our food because we are here to satisfy their appetite," she said.

"Since we opened, we have been getting positive feedback about our food and service. We also do our part to be very active on social media to reach out to people. Since we are located in the middle, we are happy to have customers from the north and south side of the island to patronize our food that is really meant to be enjoyed by everyone," she added.

Tradition and delicious food are the reasons why people gravitate toward Bolis R Us II. Their specials include beef fritada, fried chicken, Chamorro bisteak, honey garlic



BEA CABRERA
Bolis R Us 2 restaurant blessing held last Saturday at their location along Beach Road in Chalan Lau Lau.

pork, teriyaki chicken, red rice, potato salad, just to name a few. For snacks and desserts, Bolis R Us 2 offers a variety of snacks that you can just pick up and go but their traditional empanada and donuts are always a staple.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diane Torres attended the grand opening to support Pangelinan, a long-time friend. "It's really good to see small businesses, especially local businesses flourish and open during the pandemic. My mother and grandmother were teachers at William S. Reyes Elementary School which is where I went to school and the first Bolis restaurant was near. My mother would always get us donuts and empanadas even up to now... Their food

is loved by the whole island. I love everything especially the empanadas and the donuts," he said.

The first lady added that although it is pretty risky to open a business during the COVID-19 pandemic, she is thankful Bolis opened another branch. "I appreciate that Tracy prepares local dishes on a daily basis to share with everyone. It brings back good old memories when we were growing up. I love their kelaguen and just about everything."

Whenever a new business opens up, it is always good news for Saipan, according to Apatang. "...I stop by here every day because I love their food... seeing new businesses open up gives our economy a boost... I have been going

UK readies for major reopening but new variant sparks worry

LONDON (AP)—Travelers in England were packing their bags, bartenders were polishing their glasses and performers were warming up as Britain prepared Sunday for a major step out of lockdown—but with clouds of worry on the horizon.

Excitement at the reopening of travel and hospitality vied with anxiety that a more contagious virus variant first found in India is spreading fast and could delay further plans to reopen.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged Britons to "take this next step with a heavy dose of caution."

"We are keeping the spread of the variant first identified in India under close observation and taking swift action where infection rates are rising," he said. "I urge everyone to be cautious and take responsibility when enjoying new freedoms today in order to keep the virus at bay."

Cases of the variant have

more than doubled in a week in the U.K., defying a sharp nationwide downward trend in infections and deaths won by hard-earned months of restrictions and a rapid vaccination campaign. A surge testing and stepped-up vaccination effort was being conducted in the northern England areas hardest hit by that variant.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the variant, formally known as B.1.617.2, is more transmissible than the U.K.'s main strain and "it is likely it will become the dominant variant."

On Monday, people in England will be able to eat a restaurant meal indoors, drink inside a pub, go to a museum, hug friends and visit one another's homes for the first time in months. A ban on overseas holidays is also being lifted, with travel now possible to a short list of countries with low infection

rates. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are following similar but slightly different reopening paths.

Patrick Dardis, chief executive of brewery and pub chain Young's, said the indoor opening—which follows the reopening of outdoor patios and beer gardens last month—is "a big step back on to the path to normality."

"The weather has been pretty dire, and people are hardy, but we really needed this next step to come," he said.

But hospitality and entertainment venues say they won't be able to make money until they can open at full capacity. That's due to happen June 21, the date set by the government for lifting its remaining COVID-19 restrictions, including social distancing and mask-wearing rules.

Johnson has said if the new variant causes a big surge in cases, it could scupper that plan.

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Nation

Trump critic Cheney cautions Jan. 6 riot could happen again

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. Liz Cheney, newly ousted from House Republican leadership for challenging former President Donald Trump, criticized GOP colleagues Sunday for downplaying the Jan. 6 riot and condoning Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen, saying they were "complicit" in undermining democracy.

In television interviews, the Wyoming Republican said there was "no question" an attack like Jan. 6 could happen again if Trump's claims go unchecked.

"I think it's dangerous," Cheney said. "I think that we have to recognize how quickly things can unravel. We have to recognize what it means for the nation to have a former president who has not conceded and who continues to suggest that our electoral system cannot function, cannot do the will of the people."

"We've seen not only his provocation of the attack, but his refusal to send help when it was needed, his refusal to immediately say, 'Stop,'" she added.

Asked in a separate interview if she believes House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California and Rep. Elise Stefanik, who replaced Cheney in the No. 3 leadership job, are complicit by embracing Trump, Cheney responded: "They are."

"I'm not willing to do that," she said. "We all have an obligation to stand up against that."

Stefanik, a Trump stalwart from upstate New York,



From left, newly-elected House Republican Conference Chair Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., House Minority Whip Steve Scalise, R-La., and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speak to members of the media just after Stefanik was elected chair of the House Republican Conference, replacing Rep. Liz Cheney, R-Wyo., who was ousted from the GOP leadership for criticizing former President Donald Trump, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, May 14, 2021.

ing whether the former president knew the proceedings were turning violent and did nothing to stop it.

"He clearly has facts about that day, that an investigation into what happened, into the president's actions, ought to get to the bottom of," Cheney said. "And I think that he has important information that needs to be part of any investigation, whether it's the FBI, the Department of Justice, or this commission."

Speaking about her future, Cheney said she now regrets voting for Trump last November and did not expressly rule out a presidential bid of her own in 2024, admitting that her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, would like to see her run though "he's not objective."

"At this moment, the majority of the Republican Party is not where I am," she said.

Cheney appeared on ABC's "This Week" and "Fox News Sunday" and Stefanik spoke on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Fauci says pandemic exposed 'undeniable effects of racism'

ATLANTA (AP)—The immunologist who leads the COVID-19 response in the United States said Sunday that "the undeniable effects of racism" have led to unacceptable health disparities that especially hurt African Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has shone a bright light on our own society's failings," Dr. Anthony Fauci said during a graduation ceremony for Emory University.

Speaking by webcast from Washington, Fauci told the graduates in Atlanta that many members of minority groups work in essential jobs where they might be exposed to the coronavirus.

He also said they are more likely to become infected if exposed because of medical conditions such as hypertension, chronic lung disease, diabetes or obesity.

"Now, very few of these comorbidities have racial determinants," Fauci said. "Almost all relate to the social determinants of health dating back to disadvantageous conditions that some people of color find themselves in from birth regarding the availability of an adequate diet, access to health care and the undeniable effects of racism in our society."

Fauci said correcting societal wrongs will take a commitment of decades, and he urged the graduates to be part of the solution.

Fauci said that once society returns to "some form of normality," people should not forget that infectious disease has disproportionately hospitalized and killed people of color.

Fauci on Sunday was awarded the Emory University president's medal. Previous recipients include former President Jimmy Carter, the Dalai Lama and the late U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights icon. In accepting the award, Fauci denounced the destruction of division.

"Societal divisiveness is counterproductive in a pandemic," Fauci said. "We must not be at odds with each other since the virus is the enemy, not each other."

He praised the graduates for handling the profound disruption of the pandemic.

"Not since the influenza pandemic of 1918 has humanity faced a public health crisis of this magnitude," he said. "Each of you deserves enormous respect for your extraordinary adaptability, resilience and dedication to learning, completing your studies and graduating despite immense difficulties and uncertainties."

Second Amendment sanctuaries facing 1st court test in Oregon

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—The first court test of whether local governments can ban police from enforcing certain gun laws is playing out in a rural Oregon county, one of a wave of U.S. counties declaring itself a Second Amendment sanctuary.

The measure that voters in the logging area of Columbia County narrowly approved last year forbids local officials from enforcing most federal and state gun laws and could impose thousands of dollars in fines on those who try.

Second Amendment sanctuary resolutions have been adopted by some 1,200 local governments in states around the U.S., including Virginia, Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Illinois and Florida, according to Shawn Fields, an assistant professor of law at Campbell University who tracks them. Many are symbolic, but some, like in Columbia County, carry legal force.

The movement took

off around 2018, as states considered stricter gun laws in the wake of mass shootings, including a high school shooting near Parkland, Florida, that killed 17 people and made survivors into high-profile gun control activists.

Supporters of the ordinance include the Oregon Firearms Federation, which said in a November statement that "extremists" and "big city radicals" were trying to curtail gun rights.

The group referenced Portland protests opposing police brutality that occasionally turned violent last summer and called the ordinance a "common sense" step that would "ensure your right and ability to defend your life and the lives of your loved ones."

The ordinance would ban the enforcement of laws like background check requirements and restrictions on carrying a gun, though it would have exceptions for others, including keeping firearms from convicted felons.

The Oregon Firearms Fed-

eralist Party," Stefanik said. "Voters determine the leader of the Republican Party. And they continue to look to President Trump for his vision."

Cheney on Sunday called it indefensible that some GOP colleagues, such as Reps. Andrew Clyde of Georgia and Louie Gohmert of Texas, suggested last week that the breach of the Capitol on Jan. 6 posed no real threat, with Clyde likening it to a "normal tourist visit."

She also said McCarthy should testify before a bipartisan commission that is investigating the riot because he has key facts about Trump's "state of mind" on that day, includ-

eration didn't respond to a request for comment on the court case.

Sheriff Brian Pixley has expressed support, saying in a March statement that one of his responsibilities is to uphold people's Second Amendment rights and that he's eager to "move forward with the will of the voters."

The measure is divisive locally, though, and four residents filed court documents opposing it. One, Brandee Dudzic, referenced the strict gun safety drills she learned in military medic training, saying she values the right to own a gun but believes it should come with safety measures like background checks and secure storage.

A gun shop owner in Columbia County said he supports background checks and believes that "state law trumps the county law." But he voted in favor of the Second Amendment measure on principle.

Asia

Myanmar ruling junta attacks western town that resisted coup

BANGKOK (AP)—The U.S. and British embassies in Myanmar expressed concern about reports of fierce government attacks on a town in western Chin state, where the ruling junta declared martial law because of armed resistance to military rule.

The fighting began around 6 a.m. Saturday when government troops reinforced by helicopters began shelling the western part of the town of Mindat, destroying several homes, said a spokesman of the Chinland Defence Force. It is a locally formed militia group opposed to the February coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Helicopters also took part in the attack, according to the spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons.

"Mindat town is now under siege and is bracing for an all-out assault by the junta troops from air and by land," said a statement by the Chin Human Rights Organization.

The shadow National Unity Government, set up by lawmakers who were blocked by the army from taking their seats in Parliament, warned that "within the next 48 hours, Mindat can potentially become a battleground and thousands of people are facing the danger of being displaced." Many have already left the town of about 50,000 people, said a resident contacted by phone who was also fleeing.

The Mindat Township People's Administration, an-

other opposition grouping, claimed that 15 young men had been seized by government troops and used as human shields. It said at least five defenders of the town had been killed in clashes and at least 10 others wounded.

None of these details could be independently verified, but a Myanmar state television broadcast Saturday night reported that fighting was going on, and acknowledged the town's defenders have been putting up stiff resistance against the army.

"The military's use of weapons of war against civilians, including this week in Mindat, is a further demonstration of the depths the regime will sink to to hold onto power," the British Embassy said on Twitter. "We call on the military to cease violence against civilians."

The U.S. Embassy said it was "aware of increasing violence in Mindat, including reports of the military shooting civilians," and urged that evidence of atrocities be sent to U.N. investigators.

Detailed tallies compiled by several different watchdog groups say government security forces have killed upwards of 750 protesters and bystanders as they have tried to suppress opposition to the military's seizure of power. In April, security forces were accused of killing more than 80 people in one day to destroy street barricades that militants had set up as strongholds in the city of Bago.

In many or most cases, police and soldiers were trying

to break up peaceful protests, though as they increased the use of lethal force, some protesters fought back in self-defense. In recent weeks there has been an upsurge in small bombings in many cities, mostly causing little damage and few casualties.

The junta says the death toll is less than 300, and the use of force was justified to quash what it calls riots.

Mindat's resisters are only lightly armed, mostly with a traditional type of single-shot hunting rifle, but the territory around the town is mountainous and wooded, favoring defenders over attackers.

The report on state television MRTV listed past attacks on government forces and installations, most recently on Thursday, when it claimed a force of about 100 blocked security forces from entering the town, destroying one vehicle and leaving an unspecified number of security forces dead and missing.

In a later attack, it said, an even bigger force was said to have launched an attack from the city on security forces patrolling nearby, destroying six vehicles and causing an unspecified number of government casualties.

The opposition government earlier this month announced a plan to unify groups such as the Chinland Defense Force into a national "People's Defense Force," which would serve as a precursor to a "Federal Union Army" of democratic forces including ethnic minorities.

World



A woman reacts while standing near the rubble of a building that was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike on Saturday that housed The Associated Press, broadcaster Al-Jazeera and other media outlets, in Gaza City, Sunday, May 16, 2021.

AP

Israel unleashes more heavy air strikes across Gaza City

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli warplanes unleashed a new series of heavy airstrikes at several locations of Gaza City early Monday, hours after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signaled the fourth war with Gaza's Hamas rulers would rage on.

Explosions rocked the city from north to south for 10 minutes in an attack that was heavier, on a wider area and lasted longer than a series of air raids 24 hours earlier in which 42 Palestinians were killed—the deadliest single attack in the latest round of violence between Israel and the Hamas militant group, he said, flanked by his defense minister and political rival, Benny Gantz, in a show of unity.

Hamas also pressed on, launching rockets from civilian areas in Gaza toward civilian areas in Israel. One slammed into a synagogue in the southern city of Ashkelon hours before evening services for the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, Israeli emergency services said. No injuries were reported.

Local media reports said the main coastal road west of the city, security compounds and

open spaces were hit in the latest raids. The power distribution company said airstrikes damaged a line feeding electricity from the only power plant to large parts of southern Gaza City.

In a televised address on Sunday, Netanyahu said Israel's attacks were continuing at "full-force" and would "take time." Israel "wants to levy a heavy price" on the Hamas militant group, he said, flanked by his defense minister and political rival, Benny Gantz, in a show of unity.

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In the Israeli air assault early Sunday, families were buried under piles of cement rubble and twisted rebar. A

Brazil city offers COVID shots to all 18-60 as part of test

BOTUCATU, Brazil (AP)—As some Brazilian states strain to get coronavirus vaccines to complete immunizing their seniors, a city in the interior of Sao Paulo state devoted all its doses Sunday to a mass immunization for all residents 18 to 60 years old as part of a medical research project for the pandemic.

The task forces set up 45 vaccination points at voting sites in Botucatu and people were directed to get their shots at their normal election center. Those showing up for shots also were

separated by age groups.

The first doses of the day were administered by Brazil's health minister, Marcelo Queiroga, who highlighted the importance of maintaining care to avoid the transmission of the coronavirus.

"In addition to vaccination, encourage non-pharmacological measures such as wearing masks and social distancing," he said.

Peter Wilson, the British ambassador to Brazil, attended the event.

"It's absolutely vital for all

yellow canary lay crushed on the ground. Shards of glass and debris covered streets blocks away from the major downtown thoroughfare where the three buildings were hit over the course of five minutes around 1 a.m.

The hostilities have repeatedly escalated over the past week, marking the worst fighting in the territory that is home to 2 million Palestinians since Israel and Hamas' devastating 2014 war.

"I have not seen this level of destruction through my 14 years of work," said Samir al-Khatib, an emergency rescue official in Gaza. "Not even in the 2014 war."

Rescuers furiously dug through the rubble using excavators and bulldozers amid clouds of heavy dust. One shouted, "Can you hear me?" into a hole. Minutes later, first responders pulled a survivor out. The Gaza Health Ministry said 16 women and 10 children were among those killed, with more than 50 people wounded.

of us across the world that we have as much data as possible, and the research that is being done in Botucatu for the next months is going to be really vital for that scientific sharing and the increase of knowledge in the world about how the AstraZeneca vaccine operates," Wilson told The Associated Press.

At 36, commercial representative Ana Lobardela and her husband, restorer Bernardo Piragda, 37, were emotional about being immunized now. She made sure to record the moment she received the first dose.

Severe cyclone heading toward southern India; 6 dead

NEW DELHI (AP)—A severe cyclone is roaring in the Arabian Sea off southwestern India with winds of up to 140 kph (87 mph), already causing heavy rains and flooding that have killed at least six people, officials said Sunday.

Cyclone Tauktae, the season's first major storm, is expected to make landfall early Tuesday in Gujarat state, a statement by the India Meteorological Department said.

The massive storm will likely hamper India's fight against a coronavirus surge that's sweeping the country with devastating death tolls, as virus lockdown measures may slow relief work and damage from the storm could potentially destroy roads and cut vital supply lines.

In areas along the Arabian Sea coast, four people were killed and 73 villages badly

damaged on Sunday, according to the southwestern Karnataka state's disaster management authority.

A woman was killed when a coconut tree fell on her and a man riding a scooter was hit by an uprooted electric pole in the western state of Goa lashed by stormy winds and heavy rains, said Pramod Sawant, the state's top elected official.

Nearly 2,500 government rescuer workers have been deployed in six states on Cyclone Tauktae's path—Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa—equipped with wireless radios, satellite phones, cutters and tools needed for post-cyclone operations.

The storm, moving at a speed of 11 kph (7 mph), was currently 660 kilometers (410 miles) south-south-

east of Veraval in Gujarat state, the India Meteorological Department said.

The region is no stranger to devastating cyclones, but changing climate patterns have caused them to become more intense, rather than more frequent.

Last cyclone season, K.J. Ramesh, the former chief of India's weather agency, said the increased ferocity of the storms is caused by the temperature of the sea's surface. Warm ocean water is where storms get their energy, and the amount of heat trapped in the top 700 meters (2,300 feet) of the seas has increased.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW

That's a Hyundai? Tucson SUV is hi-tech head-turner

By HENRY PAYNE

THE DETROIT NEWS

The 2022 Hyundai Tucson might have been designed after the jagged edges of the Santa Catalina Mountains that surround the compact SUV's Arizona namesake. Or the chiseled stones that flood the street markets of Tucson's annual Gem and Mineral Show. Or maybe the Lamborghini Aventador's dramatic lines, since Hyundai's design chief Luc Donckerwolke once penned the Italian sports cars.

Whatever its inspiration, the Tucson is one of the most striking compact utes in the U.S.'s biggest volume, non-pickup segment.

From its big front grille to its sculpted flanks to the crazy quilt of shapes out back, the Hyundai looks like it was pieced together with shards of glass. Linger over the triangular shards in the big grille. Or the pie-piece taillights. Or the triangle-choked mesh below the rear bumper. The tri-theme reminds me of Ford's oval obsession with the 1996 Taurus, one of my favorite wagons from last century.

"You have to take a risk to get noticed," said Hyundai chief designer Chris Chapman, a Yankee whose Los Angeles studio was tasked with designing the brand's biggest U.S. seller.

Hyundai's U.S. team also knows the segment's formidable competition and American customers' habit of living in



Hyundai's 2022 Tucson will be available in the first half of 2021, with gas, hybrid and plug-in hybrid powertrains available.

HYUNDAI/TNS

their cars for long commutes and trips. Segment leaders like the Toyota RAV4, Nissan Rogue and Ford Escape not only offer unique exteriors but roomy, livable interiors.

Now that Tucson's gemstone exterior had my attention, the interior is a study in Home & Garden practicality. Unlike the aforementioned Taurus, which carried its oval exterior theme inside, the Hyundai's exterior and interior designs are apples and oranges.

Make that triangles and rectangles.

The interior is built from simple, practical right angles. A pair of chromed lines border the cabin like a picket

fence around an Arizona horse ranch. It's lovely, and—but for the console—uninterrupted.

Look closely, and that's because there isn't a hood over the instrument cluster. Like a Ford Mustang Mach-E, the Tucson's standard liquid crystal display screen (LCD) goes hood-free since it doesn't reflect the sun's glare. It makes for crisp digital graphics as well as a less-cluttered cabin. Slick.

Hyundai's obsession with simplicity continues into the console with twin, stacked rectangular touchscreens. The upper (expandable to 10.25 inches on upper trims) handles infotainment functions, the lower takes care of climate.

Engineers and designers are always at war over ergonomics, and the designers won this battle with a clean, touch-only interface. Honda tried this in its last-gen CR-V and ultimately caved to consumer preferences for a volume knob.

Hyundai buyers may ultimately demand the same, but the Tucson's design is more elegant than the Honda, so we'll see. For now, the driver can easily adjust volume using thumb tabs on the steering wheel while the passenger can poke at the screen's up-and-down volume arrows.

The design theme continues through the lower console with the transmission function actuated through a (rectangu-

lar, natch) push-button shifter. The space-saving device opens acres of room for console storage and cupholders.

Room is the priority beyond the front seats. Every compact SUV wants best-in-class claims, and Tucson drops the mic with class-leading leg and cargo room. Rear seats are pickup-roomy. I easily sat behind my big 6'5" self with inches to spare before my knees met the front seat.

Continuing the Tucson's appeal to giant Yankees, the cargo area is also best in class. Flatten the rear seats and you can transport a jumbo LCD television screen back there to go with the tiny LCD instrument display up front. If you

have a family that spends a lot of time in the back, Hyundai offers option like heated rear seats, multiple USB ports and a panoramic roof.

Once an attractive, conservative family hauler, the Hyundais have been dressing to the nines for the roaring '20s. Tucson follows the Hyundai Elantra, Veloster and Sonata with extreme wardrobe makeovers. The racy styling has been complemented with more pep under the hood, too. The Sonata, Elantra and Veloster have all received N-badged performance versions with taut suspensions and more ponies under the hood.

Tucson is content to leave the fast footwork to its siblings.

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Hyundai Tucson

- **Vehicle type:** Front engine, front- and all-wheel-drive, five-passenger SUV
- **Price:** \$26,135, including \$1,185 destination fee (\$37,454 2.5-liter Limited AWD and \$38,704 Hybrid Limited as tested)
- **Powerplant:** 2.5-liter 4 cylinder; 1.6-liter turbo-4 mated to an electric motor and 13.8 kWh lithium ion battery
- **Power:** 187 horsepower, 178 pound-feet torque (2.5-liter); 226 horsepower, 195 pound-feet torque (hybrid)
- **Transmission:** 8-speed automatic (2.5-liter); 6-speed automatic (hybrid)
- **Performance:** 0-60 mph, 8.5 seconds (2.5-liter, Car and Driver est.); towing capacity, 2,000 pounds
- **Weight:** 3,651 pounds (2.5-liter Limited)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA mpg 24 city/29 highway/26 combined (2.5-liter); 37 city/36 highway/37 combined (hybrid)
- **Report card:**
- **Highs:** Daring exterior; spare, high-tech interior
- **Lows:** No volume knob; no FWD option for hybrid
- **Overall:** 4 stars

Pulling the plug on AM

Q: I was beginning my quadrennial car search. I've had 11 Volvos since 1974 and I'm looking to replace my 2016 XC70 with another Volvo (I might be in a rut), probably the V60 XC. Did I hear my dealer correctly that the 2021's do not have AM radio built into the standard audio system? How do I listen to my news, traffic, weather and sports talk as I drive in the Chicago metro area or station surf while on driving trips? Say it isn't so!

—B.T., Wheaton, Illinois

A: It is so. According to InsideRadio.com, AM radio stations reach nearly 58.8 million people during a given week according to the latest Nielsen data based on the ratings company's June 2017 RADAR estimates. But that is just one in five (21%) radio users. By comparison, Nielsen says 86% of radio listeners tuned into an FM station. AM broadcasting is already suffering from loss of advertising. Electric cars may put the final nail in the coffin. Electric motors generate radio frequency interference (RFI) in the same wavelengths as amplitude modulation (AM) signals. All you would hear from an AM radio is static.

Q: At almost 70 years of age, I remember the 1960s auto legends like the GTO. What many do not remember is that the 0-60 time of this legend was 7 seconds. We managed to do plenty of damage with all the fast cars of that period. Now

we will have a plethora of e-cars coming that will do 0-60 in 3 seconds or less! What could go wrong?

—G.H., Gig Harbor, Washington

A: Ah, the days of muscle cars — cars that mechanics could morph into mechanical monsters. Zero to 60 in less than 3 seconds is a bit of an exaggeration (de-zaggeration?) since most stock automobiles top out in the 8-second range. What could go wrong? A big fat speeding ticket and probably a loss of your driver's license — at least for a while. "Drive like hell and you will surely get there."

Q: What are those 5- to 6-inch spikes on the front wheels of semis? Do they help them cut through ice and snow? They look dangerous. They remind me of something out of "Ben-Hur" or "Thunderball."

—M.J., Chicago

A: Why do semitruck drivers install those spikes? To look dangerous! Although some may claim that the spikes keep other drivers at a safe distance, they are simply a cosmetic affectation. You can even buy plastic ones.

Q: My 2015 VW GTI is the first car I've had with alloy wheels and low profile tires. Consequently, where I used to rub a curb with the tire, I now have a case of curb rash. I've looked for a place that would polish my wheels but found

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

none. The last place I checked, they recommended a truck tire facility. Any tips?

—G.G., Orland Park, Illinois



A: For a do-it-yourselfer: Sand the scratches down somewhat, apply automotive body filler such as Bondo, sand smooth when dry and then finish with metallic spray paint. I don't know how long that repair will hold up. A better alternative is to take the wheels to a professional. Automotive wheel restoration is usually under \$200 per wheel for repairs, said Rich Heuer of Chicago Wheel Service in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. You can even leave tires on. I suggest you look for a restorer in your area.

Life & Style

Andrea Meza of Mexico crowned 69th Miss Universe

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—Andrea Meza of Mexico has been crowned Miss Universe.

Meza, who has a software engineering degree, beat out Miss Brazil at the end of the night, screaming Sunday

when the announcer shouted “Viva Mexico!”

Previous winner Zozibini Tunzi fit the crown on Meza’s head and waited to make sure it would stay in place as Meza beamed and took her first walk

to the front of the stage.

Tunzi, a public relations professional who became the first Black woman from South Africa to win the contest, had held the title since December 2019. Last year’s ceremony

was canceled due to the pandemic.

The pageant was hosted by “Access Hollywood’s” Mario Lopez and actor and model Olivia Culpo, the 2012 Miss Universe. It was broadcast live

from the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood in Hollywood, Florida.

Ahead of the pageant, Paula M. Shugart, president of the Miss Universe Organization, stated that they had spent months planning a safe competition that followed similar

guidelines as last November’s 2020 Miss USA competition held in Memphis.

The Miss Universe competition airs in more than 160 territories and countries across the globe including in the U.S. on the FYI channel and on Telemundo.

Florida’s amusement parks loosen pandemic mask requirements

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Florida’s major theme parks are adjusting their face mask policies after the federal government loosened its recommendations as more people get vaccinated for the coronavirus.

Visitors to Walt Disney World and Universal Studios-Orlando were allowed Sat-

urday to remove their masks when they are outdoors except when they are on attractions, in line or riding a tram or other transportation.

Masks remain mandatory indoors except in restaurants when seated. Disney requires they be worn except when actively eating and drinking.

SeaWorld Orlando and its sister park, Tampa’s Busch Gardens, are going even further, allowing guests who say they are fully vaccinated to remove their masks throughout the parks. The two parks will not require proof of vaccination, but are asking guests to “respectfully comply.”

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday said people could stop wearing masks outdoors in crowds and in most indoor settings. The CDC guidance still calls for wearing masks in crowded indoor settings such as buses, planes, hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters.

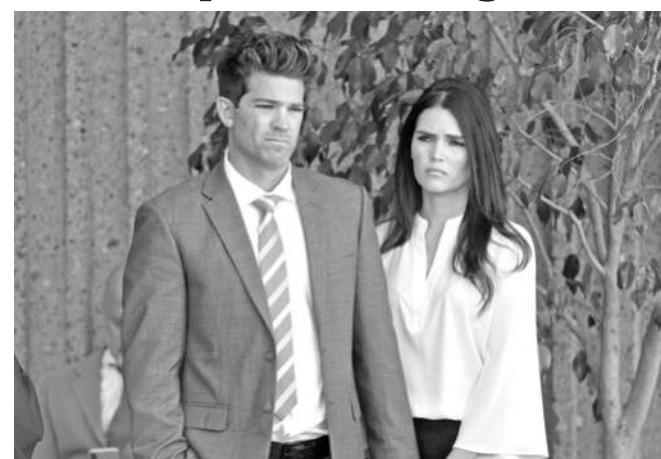
Prosecutors ask to drop most charges in doctor rape case

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—State prosecutors on Friday asked a judge to dismiss most sex crime charges filed against a reality TV doctor and his girlfriend, who are accused of drugging and raping several women at their Southern California home.

The attorney general’s office, which took over the case from the Orange County district attorney’s office last year, filed a motion asking for dismissal of 10 charges involving six of the seven alleged victims.

“We have no reason to believe that any of these victims are being untruthful,” but a review found that some allegations couldn’t be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, the prosecutor said.

The motion said a review found that some allegations couldn’t be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.



In this Oct. 17, 2018, file photo, Dr. Grant Robicheaux and his girlfriend Cerissa Riley listen during a news conference by their lawyer Philip Kent Cohen in Newport Beach, Calif.

However, Orange County Superior Court Judge Steven D. Bromberg asked the state to file a brief with more information before he rules on the motion, which could happen next month.

Noting twists and turns in the

case, Bromberg said it is “becoming the never-ending story.”

Dr. Grant Robicheaux, a surgeon who previously appeared on a Bravo TV show called “Online Dating Rituals of the American Male,” was charged in 2018 with in

connection with seven victims, and Cerissa Riley was charged in connection with five. At the time, authorities said the pair plied their victims with drugs and sexually assaulted them when they were incapable of resisting.

Robicheaux, 40, and Riley, 33, have pleaded not guilty, saying the sex was consensual.

If the charges are dropped, the case would be pared down to allegations that Robicheaux and Riley assaulted a woman in 2017 at their Newport Beach home with intent to commit sexual offense. The state is asking for dismissal of a charge that they kidnapped the woman.

At the same time, state prosecutors want to file four additional charges alleging that the couple gave the woman drugs in an effort to have sex with her while she was unable to resist.

ing for the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to investigate social media companies for labeling or removing posts or entire accounts in what Trump claimed was a restriction on free speech. That order came before Trump himself was removed from platforms like Twitter and Facebook after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

The president also ended Trump’s December 2020 order to brand all U.S. foreign aid with a single “logo that embodies the values and generosity of the American people.”

Also revoked was Trump’s June 2020 order that called for the federal government to “prosecute to the fullest extent permitted under Federal law” acts of vandalism and destruction to statues on federal property. That order came in response to the defacement of statues—particularly those honoring the Confederacy—during nationwide protests over racial injustice following the killing of George Floyd while in police custody.

Cat rescue leads to tension between neighbors

DEAR ABBY: I am a lover of and rescuer of cats (and dogs). I rescued a beautiful and loving cat with horrible wounds on his neck. I got him neutered, his wounds cleaned and sewn up, and became attached to him. I had asked my elderly neighbor if she wanted him. She said she’d think about it. She visited him at my house as his wounds healed, and a few months later she took the cat.

When I visited her a few months after that, I saw she was feeding him so many treats that he was (I’m not exaggerating) morbidly obese. When I told her so, she got insulted. She didn’t believe me so she took the cat for a checkup at the local veterinarian.

The vet told her the same thing in no uncertain terms, and to feed the cat no treats and a certain low-fat dry cat food. With my help she ordered the food and I measured it into bags to make it easier for her, as she gets a bit confused.

I weigh the cat every Monday and he has lost a bit of weight already. Slowly is the best way. But she’s not pleasant to work with and is fighting me all the way. I’m a patient person and do my best, but sometimes it’s hard not to lose my temper. Any suggestions?

CARES ABOUT FUR BABIES

ing with this neighbor. For that cat’s sake, hang onto your temper and continue to help her and her fur baby. If she’s becoming increasingly confused, it is important that someone not only keep an eye on the feline in that household, but also her—to ensure that she is able to take care of herself.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I divorced five years ago. We have four grown children. He wanted to sell the house, but I ended up buying him out because two of our kids were still living at home.

Fast-forward to now: We are expecting our third grandkid. Since the divorce, he doesn’t want to co-parent with me. He keeps saying we are no longer a family. The holidays and main events are now celebrated separately. I am increasingly sad about this. He refuses to be civil with me. He’s a racist, and I happen to have a boyfriend of a different race living with me now.

His attitude is affecting our children, especially the one still living with me. I want to be able to share the joy of our new grandkids and the successes of our children, and the dilemmas as well, but I can’t. Should I confront him? Or should I just consider him “dead”?

SOMEONE’S MISSING IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR CARES: Unfortunately, we don’t always get to know people until we see them in action, as you are now do-

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



“confronting” your ex-husband will work out well. You are a loving, enthusiastic parent and you do not need your ex’s negative attitude putting a damper on your happiness.

Continue hosting these celebratory events, and extend invites to your ex if you wish. However, because of his racism, do not expect him to show up. That’s a good thing, all things considered. Continue to dwell on the positive, and you and your children will all be happier.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

DEAR SOMEONE’S MISSING: I seriously doubt that

Pastimes

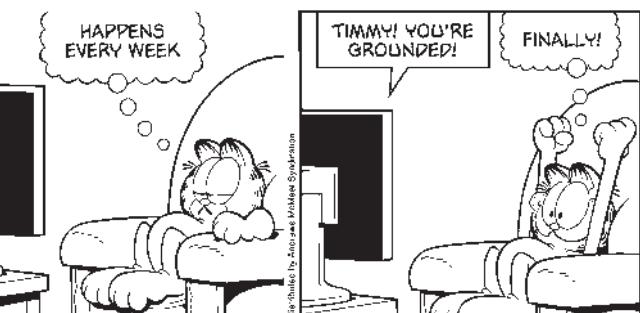
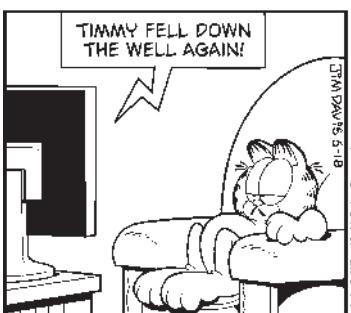
Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

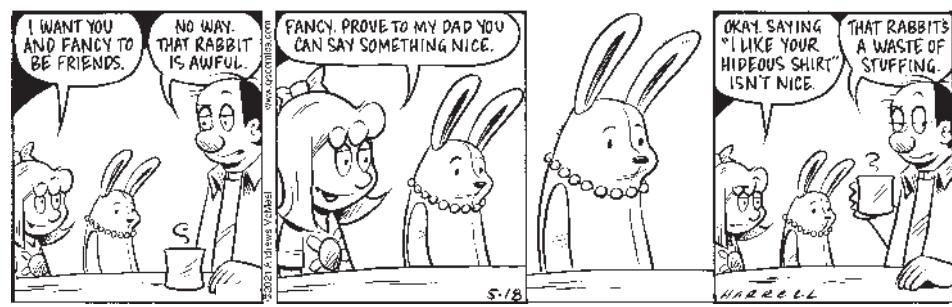


Garfield®



By Jim Davis

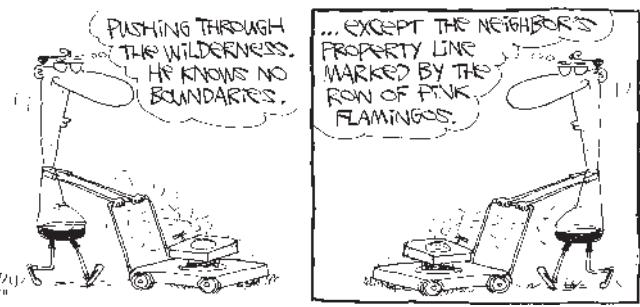
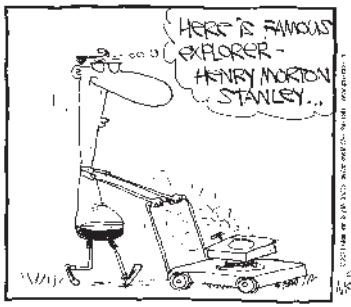
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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Lakers and Warriors set for 7-8 play-in clash in LA



NEW ORLEANS (AP) — LeBron James looked to be in playoff form when he hit deep 3s, delivered an accurate, no-look, behind-the-back pass out of a double team to Alex Caruso under the basket, or flipped an alley-oop lob to Anthony Davis while running a fast break.

With about five minutes left in the third quarter, Pelicans forward James Johnson had a chance to tie it at 76 with three free throws, but missed them all. Soon after, Davis made a pair of free throws and followed that with a dunk on the next possession, igniting a 16-3 Lakers run to close the quarter in which Davis added a reverse layup and another driving lay-in as he was fouled.

Caruso chipped in with a driving floater from the lane and a 3, and the Lakers took a 91-76 lead into the final period.

Warriors 113, Grizzlies 101

In San Francisco, Stephen Curry became the oldest scoring champion since Michael Jordan at age 35 in 1998, finishing with 46 points as Golden State held off Memphis in a regular-season finale that determined the play-in tournament's eighth and ninth spots.

The Warriors wrapped up the No. 8 seed and will play Wednesday at the Los Angeles Lakers, while Memphis finished ninth and will host San Antonio on Wednesday.

At 33, Curry and Jordan are the only scoring champions age 33 or older. Curry also joins Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the only players with multiple scoring titles, MVPs and championships.

Two-time MVP Curry locked up his first scoring title since 2015-16 with his second basket of the game late in the first quarter. He made 9 of 22 3s and also contributed nine assists and seven rebounds in Golden State's sixth straight win. Curry averaged 32 points during his second 2,000-point season.

Jonas Valanciunas led Memphis with 29 points and 16 rebounds.

Nets 123, Cavaliers 109

In New York, Kevin Durant had 23 points, 13 assists and eight rebounds and Brooklyn beat Cleveland to take the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Kyrie Irving added 17 points for the Nets, who will open the playoffs next weekend against either Boston or Washington. The Celtics and Wizards will meet Tuesday in the play-in tournament to determine the No. 7 seed.

Durant made his first eight shots, one of them a dunk to finish one of the highlight plays of the season, to bounce back nicely from a 4-for-17 outing Saturday. It was a

"We had some important guys out with injury, so it was just another opportunity for other guys. Everybody was working really hard," Hernangomez said. "I'm really happy with the opportunity that I had."

With about five minutes left in the third quarter, Pelicans forward James Johnson had a chance to tie it at 76 with three free throws, but missed them all.

Soon after, Davis made a pair of free throws and followed that with a dunk on the next possession, igniting a 16-3 Lakers run to close the quarter in which Davis added a reverse layup and another driving lay-in as he was fouled.

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strong finale to his first season back after missing 2019-20 while recovering from a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Cleveland's Collin Sexton scored 16 points but was ejected midway through the third quarter for a flagrant foul against Durant.

Jazz 121, Kings 99

In Sacramento, Calif., Jordan Clarkson scored 33 points, Rudy Gobert added 13 points and 16 rebounds and Utah beat Sacramento to take the No. 1 spot in the NBA playoffs.

Utah (52-20) won its final two to edge Western Conference-rival Phoenix for the top spot. It's the first time in franchise history that the Jazz have finished with sole possession of the best record in the NBA.

Utah awaits one of the surviving teams from the play-in games that begin Tuesday and end Friday.

Terence Davis had 20 points for Sacramento.

Suns 123, Spurs 121

In San Antonio, E'Twaun Moore scored 22 points and made a 3-pointer with 2.2 seconds remaining to lift Phoenix past San Antonio.

The Suns finished second overall in the NBA, a game behind West-rival Utah when the Jazz beat Sacramento later Sunday.

Playing without Devin Booker, Chris Paul and DeAndre Ayton, the Suns were bailed out late by Moore. He also made a 3 with 1:08 remaining to stop a 9-0 run by San Antonio and finished 9 of 10 from the field. Jevon Carter has 19 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, and Cameron Payne also had 19 points.

DeMar DeRozan had 23 points for San Antonio.

Knicks 96, Celtics 92

In New York, Julius Randle capped his All-Star season with 20 points, seven rebounds and seven assists. New York beat Boston to take the No. 4 seed

in the Eastern Conference.

RJ Barrett scored 22 points for the Knicks. They won their third straight to finish 41-31 and set up a first-round series with the Atlanta Hawks. The Knicks are headed to the playoffs for the first time since winning the Atlantic Division title in 2012-13.

Jabari Parker scored 18 points for Boston. The Celtics were already locked into the play-in tournament at the No. 7 spot and rested all their top players. They will face Washington.

Wizards 115, Hornets 110

In Washington, Bradley Beal scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half and Washington rallied to beat Charlotte to finish eighth in the Eastern Conference.

The Wizards will play at Boston in a play-in game. The Hornets closed the regular season on a five-game losing streak to drop to the 10th spot in the East and will play at Indiana in the play-in round.

Russell Westbrook had 23 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists for Washington for his 184th career triple-double — three more than Oscar Robertson's previous NBA record — and 38th this season alone.

Hawks 124, Rockets 95

In Atlanta, rookie Onyeka Okongwu set career highs with 21 points and 14 rebounds and Atlanta beat Houston.

The Hawks went with a makeshift lineup after their Eastern Conference playoff spot was locked in before taking the court.

New York clinched the fourth seed and home-court advantage in the first round against the fifth-seeded Hawks with a 96-92 victory over Boston.

Atlanta raced away from Houston in the second quarter and led 72-54 at halftime as Collins scored 15 points, De'Andre Hunter added 13 and Young 10.

Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) shoots as New Orleans Pelicans guard Eric Bledsoe (5) and center Willy Hernangomez (9) defend in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Sunday, May 16, 2021.

points for the Blazers. Denver's Nikola Jokic had 21 points in the opening half then sat for the rest of the game.

Heat 120, Pistons 107

In Detroit, Nemanja Bjelica scored 17 of his 21 points in the first half and Miami routed Detroit despite holding out several key players in a relatively meaningless game.

Precious Achiuwa scored a career-high 23 points and Max Strus added 20 for the Heat.

Miami, locked into the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference, played without Bam Adebayo (rest), Trevor Ariza (rest), Jimmy Butler (lower back), Goran Dragic (lower back, right knee), Andre Iguodala (left hip) and Kendrick Nunn (left calf).

Saddiq Bey led the Pistons with 22 points.

Timberwolves 136, Mavericks 121

In Minneapolis, Anthony Edwards scored 30 points in his final audition for NBA Rookie of the Year, leading Minnesota past Dallas.

Luka Doncic had 18 points, six rebounds and six assists in 21 minutes for the Mavericks, who were unharmed by the meaningless defeat. They get the No. 5 seed in the Western Conference playoffs, pitted against the No. 4 seed Los Angeles Clippers in a first-round series beginning next weekend.

Bulls 118, Bucks 112

In Chicago, Thaddeus Young scored 20 points, Coby White added 19 and Chicago beat Milwaukee with Giannis Antetokounmpo and the rest of the Bucks' starters missing the regular-season finale.

Milwaukee finished third in the East and will face Miami in the first round.

Bucks rookie Jordan Nwora set career highs with 34 points and 14 rebounds.

Thunder 117, Clippers 112

In Oklahoma City, rookie Aleksej Pokusevski scored a career-high 29 points and Oklahoma City beat Los Angeles to snap a nine-game losing streak.

Terance Mann scored 19 points for the Clippers, who ended up with the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference. Los Angeles sat stars Kawhi Leonard and Paul George for the second straight game.

Ohtani's 12th homer lifts Angels over Red Sox, 6-5



BOSTON
(AP)—Shohei Ohtani stepped to the plate, trying to keep his slumping team in the game.

He did more than that, delivering what he called the most important home run of his four-season career in the majors.

Ohtani hit a two-out, two-run drive in the ninth inning and the Los Angeles Angels rallied past the Boston Red Sox 6-5 Sunday, ending a four-game losing streak.

“Coming off a losing streak and the first two games of the series, the way we lost, it wasn’t a good way to lose,” Ohtani said through a team translator. “So, it was huge for us and the team to come up with this. We showed that we can beat any team.”

Boston closer Matt Barnes (1-1) retired the first two batters in the ninth before giving up a bloop single to Mike Trout.

Ohtani followed with his major league high-tying 12th home run, tucked just inside the Pesky Pole in right field. It was Ohtani’s second homer of the series and stopped Boston’s three-game winning string.

“I personally think he’s the most physically gifted baseball player that we’ve ever seen,” Barnes said.

“I don’t know that you’re ever going to see someone who can throw 100, 101 and hit the ball 600 feet. He’s a special player and incredibly talented. Hopefully, he stays healthy and has a long career,” he said.

Raisel Iglesias (2-2) pitched a scoreless eighth and Mike Mayers recorded his second save of the season.

Drew Butera’s two-run single capped a four-run second off Nathan Eovaldi that put the Angels ahead 4-0.

Rafael Devers hit a three-run drive and Kevin Plawecki hit his first homer in a four-run fifth that gave Boston a 5-4 lead.

Eovaldi allowed four runs with six strikeouts in five innings. Angels starter Jose Quintana gave up three runs in 4 1/3 innings, striking out seven.

Blue Jays 10, Phillies 8

In Dunedin, Fla., the injury-depleted Philadelphia Phillies lost a game, another player and their temper.

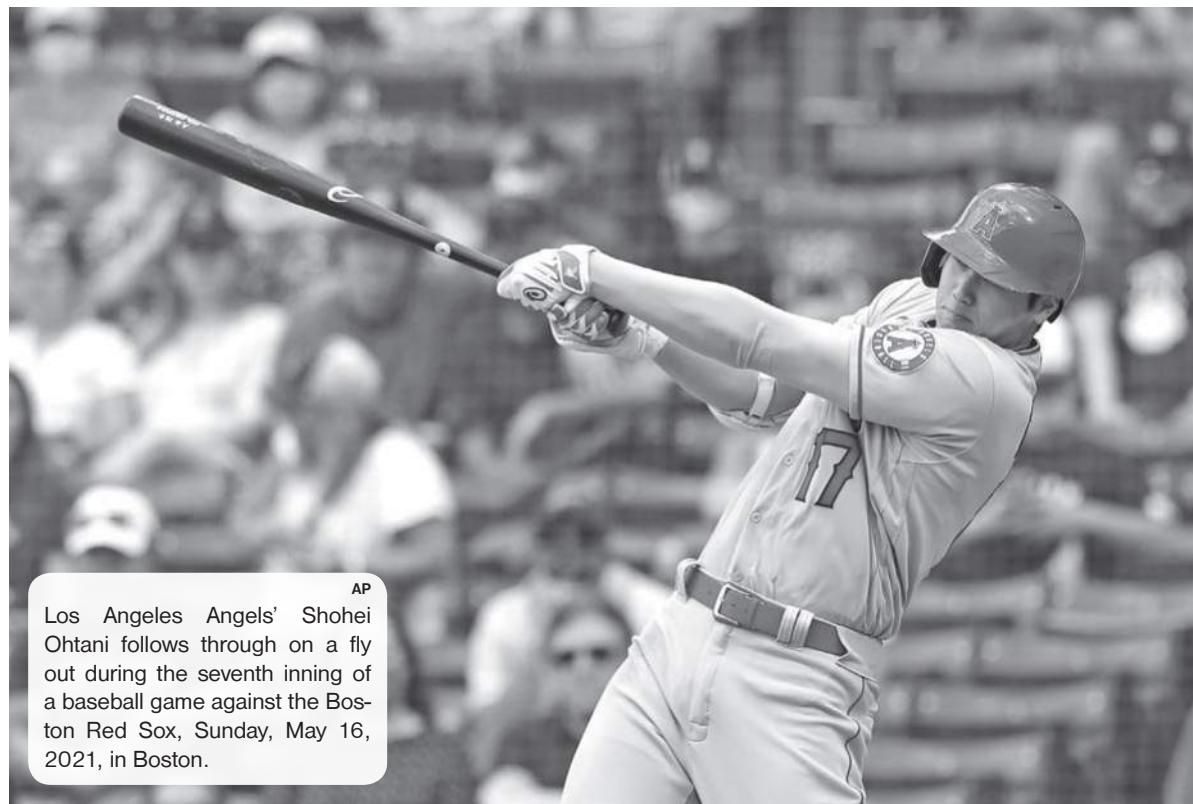
Television cameras showed a confrontation in the dugout between Phillies manager Joe Girardi and second baseman Jean Segura during Sunday’s 10-8 loss to the Toronto Blue Jays.

Segura committed two errors. One miscue came in the first inning when Segura missed a soft one-hopper by Grichuk.

“The bench conversion meant for the bench,” said Girardi, who was asked about a half-dozen times about the incident. “You can ask all you want, you got everything you’re going to get about it. I’m done with it.”

At one point Segura had to be restrained by coach Dusty Wathan.

“I didn’t actually see it,” Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins said. “Obviously I heard it. It’s heat of the moment stuff, right. We’re all competing. Everybody in the dugout what’s to win the same amount. Sometimes that’s what happens.”



AP
Los Angeles Angels' Shohei Ohtani follows through on a fly out during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Sunday, May 16, 2021, in Boston.

Marcus Semien and Bo Bichette hit consecutive first-inning homers, and Randal Grichuk had a two-run double in a five-run second as Toronto burst to an 8-0 lead.

Semien finished with three hits and three RBIs, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 11th homer, a solo drive in the eighth that gave him home runs in three consecutive games.

“I feel comfortable with what I’m doing mechanically,” Semien said. “That’s always good when you don’t have to worry about changing something everyday. You’re just able to focus on what you’re looking for at the plate.”

Toronto won for the sixth time in eight games, moving five games over .500 for the first time this season.

Philadelphia right fielder Bryce Harper (right shoulder soreness) and catcher J.T. Realmuto (sore left wrist) were both out of the lineup after leaving Saturday night’s game early.

Harper replaced Scott Kingery in right in the sixth inning. Harper popped up a bunt for an out with two on and one out in the eighth with the Phillies down 9-4, then stranded two on the ninth with a game-ending strikeout on a full-count fastball from Jeremy Beasley, the eighth pitch of the at-bat.

Girardi said he talked with Harper about trying for a bunt hit in the sixth. The slugger took several big swings during his ninth-inning at-bat.

Padres 5, Cardinals 3

In San Diego, rookie Ivan Castillo had a pinch RBI single for his first big league hit to cap a go-ahead, four-run rally in the fourth inning and San Diego beat NL Central-leading St. Louis for a three-game sweep.

The Padres continue to play well despite having five players on the COVID-19-related injured list, including star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr.

Dinelson Lamet (1-0) allowed one run in two relief innings. Mark Melancon pitched the ninth for his big league-leading 14th save in as many chances.

Three of the runs allowed by Kwang Hyun Kim (1-1) in the fourth

were unearned. He departed after 3 1/3 innings.

Orioles 10, Yankees 6

In Baltimore, Maikel Franco homered and drove in three runs, rookie Bruce Zimmermann (2-3) came out of the bullpen to allow one run and two hits over 5 2/3 innings as Baltimore avoided rallied from a four-run deficit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Aaron Judge homered for the third straight game and went 6 for 10 with four home runs and five RBIs in the series.

Jordan Montgomery failed to hold leads of 4-0 in the first and 5-2 in the third.

Trey Mancini put the Orioles ahead for good at 6-5 with an RBI double off Michael King (0-1) in the fourth.

Rays 7, Mets 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Manuel Margot, Willy Adames and Brandon Lowe homered off Marcus Stroman (3-4) as Tampa completed a three-game sweep and extended its winning streak to four.

Two-run homers by Margot in the fourth and by Adames in the fifth built a 4-0 lead, and Lowe led off the sixth with his seventh home run this season.

Josh Fleming (3-3) allowed up one hit in five scoreless innings and four relievers completed a two-hitter.

Stroman (3-4) dropped to 0-4 in his last five starts. He allowed five runs and six hits in six innings as his ERA rose from 2.01 to 2.72.

Cubs 5, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Kyle Hendricks (3-4) allowed one run and eight hits in eight-plus innings, and struck out a season-high eight.

Ian Happ had three hits, including a homer, and was aggressive on the bases as the Cubs won for the second time in six games.

Matthew Boyd (2-4) gave up four earned runs in six inning, dropping to 0-3 in his last five starts.

Giants 4, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Alex Wood (5-0) gave up one run and eight hits in six in-

nings. He departed after 3 1/3 innings.

Dansby Swanson hit a sacrifice fly in the ninth off Josh Hader, who struck out William Contreras with two on for his ninth save.

Huascar Ynoa (4-2) allowed a season-high five runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Nationals 3, Diamondbacks 0

In Phoenix, Erick Fedde (3-4) allowed three hits in seven innings with four strikeouts, Daniel Hudson pitched a one-hit eighth and Brad Hand struck two for his fourth save, finishing a four-hitter.

Yadiel Hernandez hit a go-ahead, pinch-hit homer in the eighth off Stefan Crichton (0-2), who allowed Trea Turner’s RBI double and Kyle Schwarber’s run-scoring single.

Reds 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, Dom Nunez’s passed ball allowed home the tying run in the ninth inning and Jordan Sheffield’s wild pitch scored the go-ahead run.

Mychal Givens (1-2) hit Jonathan India with a pitch leading off the ninth, and shortstop Trevor Story’s bad throw prevented a double play. Then the Rockies wasted a chance to tie the game by when Conor Joe committing a baserunning blunder in the bottom half and failed to score from second on Ryan McMahon’s single.

Sean Doolittle (3-0) struck out two in a one-hit eighth. Tejay Antone got his second save when Garrett Hampson grounded into a game-ending double play.

Marlins 3, Dodgers 2

In Los Angeles, Adam Duvall hit a three-run homer in the fifth inning off Edwin Uceta (0-2) for three unearned runs in a rally that began with fill-in second baseman Sheldon Neuse’s fielding error.

Duvall then threw out Mookie Betts at the plate from right field in the bottom half trying to score from second on Matt Beaty’s single.

Pablo López (1-3) gave up two runs and seven hits in five innings as Miami won for the third time in nine games. Yimi García got his seventh save when he retired Betts a ground-out with a runner on first, ending the Dodgers’ four-game winning streak.

Gavin Lux took over at shortstop for Kyle Seager, who broke a bone in his right hand when hit by a Ross Detwiler pitch on Saturday night.

Mariners 3, Indians 2

In Seattle, Mitch Haniger hit two doubles and ended the record streak of Shane Bieber (4-3), who struck out seven, ending a string of 20 games with eight or more.

Bieber was pulled after his fourth walk, finishing his shortest outing of the season at 4 2/3 innings trailing 3-0.

The victory was Seattle’s third straight following a season-high five-game losing streak. Cleveland has lost three in a row.

Paul Sewald (1-0) pitched two innings for his first win since 2019, and Kendall Graveman worked the ninth for his fifth save.

AP Exclusive: Full-blown boycott pushed for Beijing Olympics

By STEPHEN WADE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Groups alleging human-rights abuses against minorities in China are calling for a full-blown boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, a move likely to ratchet up pressure on the International Olympic Committee, athletes, sponsors and sports federations.

A coalition representing Uyghurs, Tibetans, residents of Hong Kong and others issued a statement Monday calling for the boycott, eschewing lesser measures that had been floated like “diplomatic boycotts” and further negotiations with the IOC or China.

“The time for talking with the IOC is over,” Lhadon Tethong of the Tibet Action Institute said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. “This cannot be games as usual or business as usual; not for the IOC and not for the international community.”

The Beijing Games are set

JULY

From Page 20

place, SFA will have it for two days, as they did prior to COVID-19, and trophies will be awarded as well as a banquet.

“We [have] submitted a COVID plan to the task force on how we would address the registration and the tournament itself. The fishermen,

to open on Feb. 4, 2022, just six months after the postponed Summer Olympics in Tokyo are to end.

Rights groups have met several times in the last year with the IOC, asking that the games be removed from China. A key member in those talks was Zumretay Arkin of the World Uyghur Congress.

Tethong, herself, was detained and deported from China in 2007—a year before the Beijing Summer Olympics—for leading a campaign for Tibet.

“The situation where we are now is demonstrably worse than it was then,” Tethong said, pointing out that the IOC said the 2008 Olympics would improve human rights in China. “If the games go ahead, then Beijing gets the international seal of approval for what they are doing.”

The push for a boycott comes a day before a joint hearing in the U.S. Congress focusing on the Beijing Olympics and China’s human-rights

they want this event, so we try our hardest to put it on for them,” he said.

Aside from the scaled-down version of the International Fishing tourney during COVID-19 last year, SFA had its

Mahi Mahi Derby delayed from March, it was pushed back to December. This year, the Mahi Mahi Derby was held last month.



record, and just days after the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee said boycotts are ineffective and only hurt athletes.

“People have worked to engage with the IOC in good faith to have them understand the issues directly from the mouths of those most impacted—the Uyghurs at the top of that list and the Tibetans and others,” Tethong said. “It’s clear the IOC is completely uninterested in what the real impacts on the ground for people are.”

The IOC has repeatedly said it must be “neutral” and stay out of politics. The Switzerland-based body is essentially a sports business, deriving about 75% of its income from selling broadcast rights, and 18% more from sponsors. It also has observer status at the United Nations.

“We are not a super-world government,” IOC President Thomas Bach said recently.

China’s foreign ministry has criticized “the politicization of sports” and has said any boycott is “doomed to failure.” China has denied accusations of genocide against the Uyghur people.

A recent U.S. State Department report stated explicitly that “genocide and crimes against humanity” have taken place in the past year against Muslim Uyghurs and other minorities in the western region of Xinjiang.

Tethong said she knows some athletes may be opposed. But she said others, who gained traction from Black Lives Matter movement, may become allies. She acknowledged this as a “gloves-off” moment.

“There are obviously a lot of people who are concerned about the athletes and their lifelong work,” Tethong said. “But in the end it’s the IOC that has put them in this position and should be held accountable.”

American skier Mikaela Shiffrin, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, spelled out the dilemma for athletes in a recent interview on CNN.

“You certainly don’t want to be put in the position of having to choose between human rights like morality versus being able to do your job,” she said.

Tethong suggested coalition members might lobby the IOC’s top 15 sponsors, American network NBC, which generates about 40% of all IOC revenue, sports federations, civil society groups “and anyone that will listen.”

Activists have already singled out IOC sponsor Airbnb for attention.

“First is the moral question,” Tethong said. “Is it OK to host an international goodwill sporting event such as the Olympic Games while the host

In this Feb. 3, 2021, file photo, exile Tibetans use the Olympic Rings as a prop as they hold a street protest against the holding of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics, in Dharamsala, India. AP

nation is committing genocide just beyond the stands?”

In meetings with the IOC, activists say they have asked to see documents in which China has given “assurances” about human rights conditions. Activists say the IOC has not produced the documents.

The IOC included human rights requirements several years ago in the host city contract for the 2024 Paris Olympics, but it did not include those guidelines—the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights—for Beijing. Paris is the first Olympics to contain the standards, long pushed for by human rights groups.

Last week, human rights groups and Western nations led by the United States, Britain and Germany accused China of massive crimes against the Uyghur minority and demanded unimpeded access for U.N. experts.

At the meeting, Britain’s U.N. Ambassador, Barbara Woodward, called the situation in Xinjiang “one of the worst human rights crises of our time.”

“The evidence points to a program of repression of specific ethnic groups,” Woodward said. “Expressions of religion have been criminalized and Uyghur language and culture are discriminated against systematically and at scale.”

monthly ace once a month circulating the four current golf courses and are inviting interested golfers to join the MGA club.

All an individual needs to do is reach out to a current MGA member for details.

New members’ annual fee is \$40 and returning members’ is \$30.

by Matua San Nicolas who recorded a distance of 29.34m. Bobby Bao landed third place for the discus event with recorded distance of 29.33m.

Kumuch also finished first in the javelin with a distance of 39.01m, followed by Tyrik Basa from MHS who finished with 34.67m. Completing the Top 3 was Hombre Hocog who submitted a distance of 32.15m.

Kumuch landed his third gold medal after recording a distance of 5.66m during the long jump. J.C. Gintu from Tinian took home the silver medal with a distance of 5.62m, followed closely by third place Antonio Li from ACS with a distance of 5.50m.

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Philadelphia	49	23	.681	—
x-Brooklyn	48	24	.667	1
x-New York	41	31	.569	8
Boston	36	36	.500	13
Toronto	27	45	.375	22

Southeast Division

y-Atlanta	41	31	.569	—
x-Miami	40	32	.556	1
Washington	34	38	.472	7
Charlotte	33	39	.458	8
Orlando	21	51	.292	20

Central Division

y-Milwaukee	46	25	.648	—
Indiana	34	38	.472	12%
Chicago	30	41	.423	16
Cleveland	22	50	.306	24%
Detroit	20	52	.278	26%

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	25	17	.595	—
Toronto	22	17	.564	1½
New York	22	18	.550	2
Tampa Bay	23	19	.548	2
Baltimore	17	23	.425	7

Central Division

Chicago	24	15	.615	—
Cleveland	21	17	.553	2½
Kansas City	18	22	.450	6½
Detroit	14	26	.350	10½
Minnesota	13	25	.342	10½

West Division

Oakland	25	17	.595	—
Houston	24	17	.585	½
Seattle	21	20	.512	3½
Los Angeles	17	22	.436	6½
Texas	18	24	.429	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	18	16	.529	—
Philadelphia	21	20	.512	½
Atlanta	19	21	.475	2
Miami	18	22	.450	3
Washington	16	20	.444	3

Central Division

St. Louis	23	18	.561	—
Milwaukee	21	20	.512	2
Cincinnati	19	19	.500	3
Chicago	19	20	.487	3
Pittsburgh	17	23	.425	5½

West Division

San Francisco	24	16	.600	—
San Diego	24			



Lakers and Warriors
set for 7-8 play-in
clash in LA

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AP Exclusive: Full-blown boycott pushed for Beijing Olympics

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ACS dominates 18U boys division

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School coasted past foes in the boys 18U division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend.

The Torch Bearers managed to sweep six of 10 individual events last weekend behind Ray Qi and Eason Tang. On top of the individual events, ACS also conquered the 18U boys 4x100m, 4x400m, and mixed medley relay races. Qi came out on top in the 3,000m, 1,500m, and 800m events, while Tang topped the 400m, 200m, and



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Agape Christian School's Eason Tang runs ahead of the field in the 100m boys 18U division of the 2021 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Track and Field.

100m courses.

Qi dominated the extremely close 3,000m race after submitting a time of 11:54. Fellow Torch Bearer Peter Hu came in at a close second 5 ticks later at 11:59. Taking home the bronze medal and completing the Top 3 was Saipan International School's Rex Pixley who finished at 12:06.

ACS dominated the 1,500m race with Qi bagging another gold medal with a time of 5:04:85, followed shortly by Peter Hu who came in at 5:06:52 for another silver medal. Allen Luo, also from ACS, completed the Top 3 with a time of 5:13:39.

For the 800m race, Qi landed first place by 2 seconds, coming in at 2:24:57. Tailing him was SIS' Kuu Nishimura who took home the silver medal with a time of 2:26:96. Coming in at a close third was Abraham Zhu Li from ACS who came in a second after Nishimura at 2:27:96.

Meanwhile, Tang bested the competition in the 400m event with a time of 56:23.

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Full-blown Saipan International Fishing tourney set this July

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Saipan Fishermen's Association will host its 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 10 and 11.

The annual event will be free of charge and will be held at the Smiling Cove Marina starting at 6am on July 10 until 6pm on July 11.

According to SFA presi-

dent Tony Scragg, SFA is looking at a full-blown fishing tournament compared to the scaled-down version done last year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This year, depending on how we come out of this pandemic and with the blessing of the COVID-19 Task Force, we are looking to go back to our normal, full-blown inter-

national fishing tournament from July 10 to 11," he said.

Scragg explained that last year, the tournament was held for one day, no trophies were awarded, and the banquet was canceled. However, this year, although there will still be COVID-19 protocols in

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MARK RABAGO
Saipan Fishermen's Association president Tony Scragg, right, poses with winners of the 2021 Mahi Derby during the awards ceremony held last month at the Smiling Cove Marina weighing station.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Marianas Golf Association members pose for a group photo after concluding its annual Ace of Aces Championships with Isaac Aguon taking home the perpetual trophy.

Aguon is MGA Ace of Aces champ

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Isaac Aguon topped the annual Ace of Aces Championships hosted by the Marianas Golfing Association.

On the first day of the Ace of Aces tournament held last April 17 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course, April Ace and eventual champ Aguon shot a 46 in the front nine and a 38 in the back nine for a gross score of

84. Sporting a 19 handicap and a net score of 65, Isaac took a commanding 5-stroke lead over Keone Chariton who shot a net score of 70.

Day 1 leader Aguon came out on Day 2, May 1, determined to win. The champ stuck to his safe-play game plan and maintained a steady pace to shoot a net score of 67.

Combining his Day 1 and Day 2 net scores, Aguon came out with a net total of 134 to win the overall title by 7 strokes.

Aguon went home with \$200, a perpetual trophy, a free MGA 2021/2022 club membership, free entrance to any golf tournament of his choice, and epic bragging rights for one year.

Meanwhile, during Day 2 of the Ace of Aces event, both Dung Tenorio and Ron Benavente came out firing

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